

Disability NOW

£1.80 December 2001

Established 1984

The
campaigning
newspaper
that puts you in
the picture

BBC jobs row

The BBC has come under fire from visually impaired journalists who claim it is denying them the opportunity to make a career in broadcasting.

One Tom Walker, 37, is attempting to bring a case under the Disability Discrimination Act after he was turned down for a job interview by a local radio station.

Another Angus Huntley, 27, who has a postgraduate diploma in broadcast journalism, is now considering changing his career because he cannot find enough regular work.

Currently, 1.7 percent of the BBC's 22,000 staff are disabled.

Mr Huntley told DN that he had problems because journalists need to sit at various desks in local radio. But he needs to sit at one desk where there is special software on his computer.

He said he has had between 10 and fifteen job interviews, mostly with the BBC. He said: "They are a public service and

rather than all the warm words we get from their equal opportunities policy, they should be doing something. Local radio is an important training ground for any journalist."

Penny Hefferan, 38, recently quit her placement on the BBC Extend scheme which provides paid work placements to about 50 people a year. She was based at BBC Radio Nottingham and claimed she got little support from Extend and did not get the training she felt she needed.

She said: "I was flogging a dead horse and I did not see the point in putting myself through that."

Wendy Harpe, senior diversity manager at the BBC, said it was due to introduce a system allowing specialist software to be used at any computer.

Other visually impaired journalists have managed to

find sustained work in local radio.

She said that Extend was not a training scheme, and that Ms Hefferan had not informed them of her problems when on the scheme.

Extend, which pays £190 a week, will eventually be replaced by about 13 longer one-year apprenticeships.

She said: "We are well within the law in terms of reasonable adjustments and are doing more than the law requires us to do."

Meanwhile, there is concern among BBC insiders about its commitment to the Disabled Programmes Unit (DPU) and the use of non-disabled senior staff.

Two programmes being made by the unit this year have non-disabled producers. But a spokesperson said that other staff on them were disabled.



Pub-lic service: Graham Hughes, believed to be Britain's shortest barman, pulls pints at the Blue Bell pub in York.

designed for
people with
cerebral palsy



TRY ONE
with our unique
7-day Money Back
Guarantee

BaKare

01752 512222
www.bakare.co.uk

Info@bakare.co.uk

Drugs work wonders

Drugs that lower blood cholesterol can prevent more than a third of all heart attacks and strokes in people most at risk, a huge trial has revealed.

Researchers believe the "stunning result" could save tens of thousands of lives a year worldwide.

The UK team studied 20,000 volunteers aged between 40 and 80 who were at high risk of coronary heart disease – the largest randomised trial ever carried out in this area.

The study found that, over five years of treatment, the cholesterol-lowering statin drugs typically prevent heart attacks,

strokes or other major heart problems in 100 of every 1,000 people who have previously had a heart attack.

Statins also help those with angina, diabetes and people who have had a stroke and other related conditions.

Professor Rory Collins, co-director of Oxford University's Clinical Trial Service Unit, which has carried out the study, said: "This is a stunning result, with massive public health implications.

"If an extra 10 million high-risk people worldwide go onto statin treatment, this would save 50,000 lives each year."

Dreaming in Scotland

Front cover of DN: Nine-year-old Sidra Chaudhry, from the Hampden School for children with complex and profound disabilities, discovers one of Dreamscape's four magical worlds, with Vivien Grahame.

Dreamscape is touring

Scotland and was designed as an inclusive piece of theatre for children aged six to 10.

Produced by Glasgow's Giant Productions, the show was developed with the help of children, parents, teachers, care staff and arts professionals.

Mencap report shocks

Parents of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities receive a "shocking" lack of help to care for their children, according to a new report.

Three in five of the parents interviewed by the learning disability charity Mencap spend more than 18 hours a day caring for their sons and daughters at home.

But nearly four out of five of the 76 families questioned receive less than 20 minutes outside help a day.

Researchers for the *No Ordinary Life** report found parents were often left "permanently exhausted, financially disadvantaged and isolated from society".

Mencap called on the government to ensure social services offer more help to such families.

* *No Ordinary Life* is available free from Mencap's Public Liaison Unit on 020 7696 6900 or at www.mencap.org.uk

Contents

Pg 23



News

Stories	1-9
Health news	10
Regional news	11
News focus	13
– Is the government going cool on mental health?	

Features

Profile	14
– Alastair Hignell, ex-rugby star	
Web review	16
– How has the net helped you?	
Comment	17
– Loneliness over the holidays	
Christmas special	20-23
– Gifts, food, books, more	
How to...	24
– Keep your home safe	
DN's year	38
– Disability Now – and then	

Regulars

Letters to the editor	18
Arts	25
Carer's voice	27
Share your problems	28
Take a break	30
Information	31/33
Classified	33-37
Up for grabs	39

www.disabilitynow.org.uk


Pg 10

FRONT COVER: NINE-YEAR-OLD SIDRA CHAUDHRY MEETS IDA DOWN FROM GIANT PRODUCTIONS' DREAMSCAPE. PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN LOW. SEE STORY ON PAGE ONE.

DisabilityNOW

Published by Scope
Editor Mary Wilkinson

editorial

News Editor Rod Hermeston
Reporter John Pring
Layout Sub David Felton/
 Sam Gillespie
Editorial Assistant
 Dan Batten

Design/Production Editor
 Jamie Trounce
 Scope, 6 Market Road
 London N7 9PW
Editorial: 020 7619 7323
 Fax: 020 7619 7331
 Minicom: 020 7619 7332
 e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

advertising

Advertising Manager
 Richard Gresham
 Tel: 020 7619 7336
 e-mail: richard.gresham@scope.org.uk
Sales Executive
 Patrick Durham-Matthews
 Tel: 020 7619 7320
 e-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk
Sales Administrative Assistant Jennifer Atherton
 Tel: 020 7619 7120
 Fax: 020 7619 7331

marketing

Marketing Manager
 Judith Reid
Marketing Executive
 Melanie Mangham

subscriptions

Customer Interface, Bradley Pavilions, Bradley Stoke North, Bristol BS32 0PP
 Tel: 01454 642444
 e-mail: dnsubs@cisubs.co.uk

printing

Voluntary Sector Services, Centurion Press Limited, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, Tel: 01923 891000

distribution

MMC, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR

alternative formats

Disability Now is also available on cassette, disk or via e-mail from Talking Newspapers Enterprises Ltd. For orders or queries, tel: 01435 862737. ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in *Disability Now* are not necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright © 2001 Scope

No material may be reproduced, amended or published, in any format, without the prior permission of the Editor.

While we strive to maintain the highest standards in reproduction, Disability Now cannot be held responsible for picture quality.



25,399

1/7/00 - 30/6/01



MEDI
O
T
I
O
N

NOW WITH UNIQUE HIRE/BUYER PLAN!

"Viva" Full body model

THE NEW

"VIVA"

STATE OF

THE ART

THERAPEUTIC EXERCISER.

VISIT US AT

www.motomed-medimotion.co.uk

• FULLY PASSIVE MOTION
 • ASSISTED ACTIVE MOTION
 • OR FULLY ACTIVE

"Viva" Lower body model

"Pico" Lower body model

240 VOLT MACHINES FOR LOWER AND UPPER BODY THERAPY.

UNIQUE ANTI SPASM CONTROL ENSURES SAFE AND GENTLE CONTINUOUS PASSIVE MOTION.

Can also be used as active trainer using your own muscle power. Handset operates at variable speeds and resistance to encourage progress and provides bio-feedback with a digital display.

Designed specifically for M.S. and C.P. patients and used extensively Worldwide for Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy.

SUITABLE FOR

- multiple sclerosis
- 'stroke' patients
- paralysis (paraplegia and tetraplegia)
- non-inflammatory illness of the peripheral nerves (polyneuropathy)
- spastic and rheumatic illnesses
- insufficient physical exercise
- blood circulation disorders (prophylaxis of thrombosis)
- oedemas
- Parkinson's disease
- osteoporosis
- muscular dystrophy
- stiffness of the joints
- arthrosis

SOLE UK IMPORTER

TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO HELP YOUR CIRCULATORY PROBLEMS AND IMPROVE THE FLEXIBILITY OF YOUR JOINTS

CONTACT US FOR A BROCHURE: MEDIMOTION Ltd, PENCADER, CARMARTHENSHIRE. SA39 9AZ.
 TEL: 01559 384 097 • FAX: 01559 384 814 • E-mail: medimotion@hotmail.com

News for NICE

A new survey has provided further dramatic evidence that drug therapy can ease the symptoms of multiple sclerosis.

It will increase pressure on the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), which looks set to rule out funding beta interferon and glatiramer acetate on the NHS.

Although drugs companies and organisations such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society have appealed against NICE's decision, there is little hope of a U-turn.

Instead, the Department of Health is negotiating with the companies over possible trials of the MS drugs for people with the relapsing-remitting form of the condition.

Over 2,000 people with MS took part in the new survey, carried out by the Multiple Sclerosis Trust and presented at the trust's fifth annual conference.

It included responses from

202 people who take beta interferon or glatiramer acetate, about a tenth of those using these drug therapies in the UK.

More than half of those who experienced a loss of mobility said the drugs helped them.

But the drug therapy also helped half of those who reported pain as a symptom, 41 per cent of people who experienced fatigue and 39 per cent of those with bladder problems, as well as other symptoms.

Nicola Russell, director of services for the MS Trust, told DN: "The drug therapies are undoubtedly having an impact on quality-of-life issues for people with multiple sclerosis.

"The worrying thing is that the NICE process doesn't take any of this into account."

NICE's appraisal looks only at the effects of the drugs on mobility, rather than other quality of life issues, she said.

See also page 14.



MICHAEL CRAIG/UNITED NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

London bound: Trevor Jones sailed into London in early November. Trevor and his wheelchair-using colleagues are the first people with such severe disabilities to captain and crew a 2,500 mile voyage, around Britain, and are more than three-quarters of the way there.

Parking scheme blues

The government has been criticised for failing to deliver its long-awaited review of the blue badge parking scheme.

Two years after announcing it was to review the scheme, which provides parking concessions for disabled drivers, the government is still unable to say when a draft report will appear.

Tim Boswell, Shadow Minister for Disabled People, said he found the delay "extremely irritating".

He said: "They probably do

not know what to do and are frightened of upsetting vested interests of one kind or another."

And Douglas Campbell, executive director of the Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA), said: "We are very concerned that, two years on, we can see no real progress on the project at all."

A resolution was passed at the DDA's annual general meeting in October, expressing "grave concern" at the delay.

Mr Campbell said the scheme was increasingly falling into disrepute because of perceived abuse of the badges by drivers who are not disabled, and the allocation of badges to some people who do not need them.

A spokesman for the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions said: "They are still finalising the discussion document, but they expect to publish something shortly."

Winter fuel update



Winter fuel payment campaigners were planning to meet Minister for Disabled People Maria Eagle as DN went to press.

Lord Ashley, chairman of the All Party Disability Group, which supports the campaign, arranged the meeting. Others intending to be there were Dr Roger Berry MP, DN editor Mary Wilkinson, and readers

Aileen Grist and Mike Knoth.

"The government has said it will not extend the winter fuel payment to disabled people of working age," said Wilkinson. "We hope the Minister will use her influence to reverse this."

She urged readers to ask their MP to sign early day motion No 289, which now has 155 signatures, and fill in the survey form on the DN website. www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Folic acid in high demand

The government has been criticized for not ordering food companies to add folic acid to flour to help prevent spina bifida, nearly two years after its own experts backed the measure.

The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus says 800 women have unnecessarily had pregnancies affected by spina bifida since then.

As a result, an estimated 720 women have had abortions, the charity claims.

A Department of Health (DoH) committee found in January 2000 that incidence of spina bifida would be cut by 41 per cent if 240 microgrammes of folic acid was added to every 100 grammes of flour.

Labour MP Helen Clark has criticised the delay in an early day motion.

A DoH spokeswoman said the delay was due to the need for research on the "potential adverse effects of high folic acid intakes".

SNOWMEN CHRISTMAS CARD OFFER



DN's very own design/production editor, Jamie Trounce, has created this endearing Christmas card especially for all our readers. Order a packet or two and help to spread the word about Britain's best disability-focused newspaper. All proceeds go towards covering the cost of producing and posting your copies.

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 10 DECEMBER.

1 pack contains 5 cards + envelopes = £2.50 (inc.p&p)

Please indicate how many packets you would like, fill in your name and address and return to our FREEPOST address given below.

Please state number of packets required

Deliver to: Name

Address

Postcode

Please return this coupon with cash or a cheque made payable to Disability Now to: Disability Now, FREEPOST WD4323 LONDON N7 9BR.

The Gem Comfort Wheelchair from Ability 2

Comfort without Compromise!

forward position



reclined position



normal position

- Manual or Power Base, front or rear wheel drive
- Superb comfort seating
- Tilt in space powered or manual
- Paediatric, junior & adult sizes
- Elevating legrests

- Excellent posture support
- Fully reclining backrest
- Built in pressure relief
- Tailored to your requirements
- Full range of adaptations
- Crash tested

Ability 2 Ltd Sterling Park Woodgate Valley Birmingham B32 3BU
Tel: 0121 421 6070 Fax: 0121 421 4555 Email: info@ability2.co.uk

- ☐ Please send me a full information pack
- ☐ Please call me to arrange a FREE home demonstration

Name

Tel No.

Address

Postcode

DN 12/01

Dorset shocker

Consultants at a Dorset hospital have been urged to "downplay" the advantages of digital hearing aids because they cost too much.

The advice came in a leaked memo from Jeremy Tweed, head of audiology and hearing therapy at West Dorset General Hospital.

He told consultants that because funding was so tight, digital aids could only be given to people with the most severe hearing impairments.

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said there was "no excuse" for such remarks, although it realised Mr Tweed was operating on a "shoestring budget".

Dorset is not among the 20 NHS trusts where free digital aid pilot schemes began last year.

The RNID wants the government to make the aids freely available to everyone who needs them.

A hospital spokesman said it

had increased its hearing aid budget by nearly 50 per cent, but admitted the advice issued by Mr Tweed was "not appropriate".

Meanwhile, more than 100 MPs have signed an early day motion (EDM) by Labour MP Siobhan McDonagh, calling on the government to start "universal provision of digital hearing aids through the NHS".

Dr Liam Fox, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, has also sponsored an EDM that calls upon the government to cut waiting times for hearing tests and aids.

A Department of Health spokeswoman said more than 18,000 people would have digital hearing aids by next March.

She said a decision on universal provision would be made following a report on the pilot projects.

Liberal Democrat MSP Mike Rumbles has asked the Scottish Executive to introduce a similar pilot scheme in Scotland.

Exceptions to IB reform will be rare

The government will make only "very rare" exceptions to new plans to force disabled people on incapacity benefits to attend "work-focused interviews".

Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, told a Commons debate in November that the reforms would help some of the estimated one million people with disabilities who are not in work but would like jobs.

The new regulations, introduced in some parts of the country last month, mean that everyone of working age who makes a claim for incapacity benefits must take part in a "work-focused interview" and possibly undergo a medical test of their capability. Their cases will be reviewed every three years.

Mr Darling did not dispute that leaked guidelines for job-centre staff stated that people would only rarely be considered so disabled that they would not have to attend an interview.

He said that only a minority of people would not have to come in for interviews.

The Liberal Democrats and five Labour MPs voted against the government, although Conservatives abstained.

Lynne Jones, one Labour MP who rebelled, said she would prefer a voluntary scheme.



World at your fingertips: while checking out AbilityNet's unique approach to disability and information technology, Maria Eagle (right), Minister for Disabled People, got some pointers from Nuala Davis, centre manager at AbilityNet.

In brief

Care consultation

The government has begun a three-month consultation on regulation and minimum standards for agencies providing home care as part of the Care Standards Act 2000

www.doh.gov.uk/domiciliarycare

£3m boost for carers

The charity Carers UK will head a £3m project to help carers find work and get training.

The scheme, backed by the European Social Fund, is called Action for Carers and Employment and is expected to help 2,000 carers over a three year period.

Tel: 020 75667843

"QUITE SIMPLY, I CAN DO A LOT MORE NOW"

The Miniflex Powerchair introduces a new sense of independence and mobility around your home.

- Compact size and tight turning circle
- Standard electric seat elevation aids high reach
- Front wheel drive for easy operation
- Easy access in and out of the chair
- Optional comfort seating and extras to suit personal needs

For full information call:

FREEPHONE 0500 618008



RAINBOW REHAB (Dept DN), FREEPOST,
The Coach House, 134 Purewell
Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1BR
www.rainbow-rehab.co.uk



Genetic info banned

Insurance companies have announced a five-year voluntary ban on the use of genetic tests results for life and health insurance.

The ban, agreed to by the government, means that insurers will not use the results of genetic tests to assess applications for life coverage of up to £500,000.

But Health Minister Lord Philip Hunt, said: "I want to make it very clear that if there is evidence of serious and persistent non-compliance by the insurance industry, then the

government is prepared to enforce the moratorium through legislation if necessary."

There have been worries that people will be deterred from taking genetic tests and will miss out on the chance of early treatments if they are afraid that they will lose insurance cover by declaring the results.

Mary Francis, Director General of the Association of British Insurers, said the five-year period would allow insurers to come up with plans on the way they would use genetic information.

Go by coach, half-price

Disabled coach passengers will be entitled to half-price fares once a new government proposal gets the final go-ahead.

Transport Minister John Spellar has suggested that coach operators could be given fuel duty rebates in return for offering half-price tickets to disabled and older passengers on scheduled long-distance journeys in England.

The proposal would bring coach travel into line with local bus services, where the 50 per cent concession is already available on production of a free pass.

The government will now consult with the coach industry on how to implement the proposal, which is expected to cost £10m a year and to be introduced within the next two years.

The Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly also intend to consult on a similar scheme.

Brian Nimick, director general of the Confederation of Passenger Transport, said: "This move helps to establish the coach as a full part of the public transport mix, and will directly benefit older and disabled travellers."

Safety last in the home

Disabled people are among those most likely to be killed in house fires, a groundbreaking report has found.

The report, by the London Fire Brigade, has found that at least 20.8 per cent of those killed in fires were disabled, but a further 5.4 per cent had mental health problems and another 6.1 per cent suffered ill health.

The report, *Fire Deaths in London 1996-2000*, is the first of

its kind in the UK and looked at the 411 deaths caused by fire in the capital during that period.

It found that the most vulnerable group were elderly people with 57 per cent of deaths being among people over 60.

Ian Hughes, senior community fire safety officer for London, said: "There is lots that can be done to reduce the risk. Unplug electrical appliances. Close doors and make

sure alarms are fitted and are in working order."

The report adds that fire brigades must work with health and social services sectors to promote prevention and detection among vulnerable groups. This was already under way in many London boroughs. *Free tel: 020 75872000 or www.london-fire.gov.uk (which has fire safety advice). See also page 24.*



Pot-luck: Marjorie Rowson, (left) received a Beryl Cook print for painting the winning flower pot in an Arthritis Care fundraising competition. With her are the charity's Terry Oliver, and Margaret Harris (right), who received £50.

Council tax sparks outrage

The government is to review laws that led to some residents of a care home for elderly visually-impaired people to face council tax bills of almost £1,000.

Residents of Kathleen Chambers House in Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, were previously exempt from the tax.

But they are now facing bills, backdated to January 2000, after a reassessment of the home's facilities by tax officials.

Because the rooms had been provided with a cooker, sink and bathroom to meet new care standards, residents must now pay council tax, although those on income support are exempt.

David Parsons, 89, a resident of the Royal National Institute for the Blind home, said the bills were "totally unjust and unfair".

A spokesman for the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions confirmed that Sedgemoor District Council (SDC), which levied the tax, was unable to make exceptions.

But he said: "We are aware of the problem highlighted and are presently reviewing the regulations to see if they can be updated to reflect new forms of residential care."

Ruth Pearson, head of revenues for SDC, said: "Our hands are tied."

Dope doubts

Disabled campaigners who want cannabis legalised for medicinal use say the government's proposals to reclassify it as a class C drug will not improve their lives.

They say Home Secretary David Blunkett's announcement will mean nothing to people who rely on the drug to ease the symptoms of conditions such as multiple sclerosis (MS).

Clare Hodges, director of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, who has been using cannabis to ease MS symptoms for ten years, said the move to soften the law was "very positive" but would be "pretty irrelevant" to medicinal users.

Because she needs the drug for medicinal purposes, it has to be good quality. This cannot be guaranteed unless it is bought on prescription from a chemist.

"The problem is still where to get it from and how to get good quality. All it means now is that people will not be so nervous about getting it," she said.

Mr Blunkett also said he would move to legalise cannabis-based drugs if trials currently underway are successful.

GW Pharmaceuticals, the company licensed to carry out the trials, welcomed his statement.

As DN went to press, police in Scotland charged Ms Biz Ivol, who has MS, with a number of offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Motability blunder

A scheme that provides cars for disabled people wrongly told a customer that she would have to buy her new vehicle at the end of its three-year lease.

The Motability charity told Gill Kilshaw she must agree to buy the Vauxhall Vectra estate because of the high cost of adaptations made to her existing car and a previous vehicle leased through the scheme.

A Motability spokesman said the letter sent to Mrs Kilshaw, who has multiple sclerosis, was "inaccurate" and admitted it caused her "understandable concern". Motability has apologised.

But he said Motability might still help her buy the car at the end of the three years, if she agreed.

In brief

Terrorist cut down

Disabled people who need to take their own metal cutlery aboard aircrafts have been told they will need a doctor's note in order to do so.

The rules were introduced by the government after the 11 September terrorist attack on New York.

British Airways said it had no choice but to abide by the government's regulations.

Going one better

The mobile phone network One 2 One has launched a dedicated Disability Service Team to deal with enquiries from disabled customers, who can ask for services like braille bills.

Low returns in 2001

The civil service increased the number of disabled people working at senior levels by only 0.3 per cent in the last year.

Figures for April 2001 show that 2 per cent of the senior civil service are disabled, up from 1.7 per cent in April 2000.

Auto-matic aid

The disability website www.youreable.com has teamed up with the Bank of Scotland in a new scheme aimed at helping disabled people get cars.

The scheme will particularly help people not eligible for higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance. This group is not entitled to cars through the Motability scheme which supplies about 150,000 vehicles a year.

Youreable chief executive Stephen Harpin said: "Those that do not qualify for the scheme often find it difficult to

get credit. If people go through this scheme, the Bank of Scotland will now take into account state benefits when they assess the credit risk."

Under the new scheme which is a partnership with Bank of Scotland Freeway, disabled people can pay a deposit and monthly payments for two or three years. The disabled person can buy the car, leave the scheme, or opt for another vehicle at the end of the contract. Bank of Scotland Freeway, tel: 0845 7697243, youreable website: www.youreable.com



Call of the wild: Lara Masters dons leopard for the 2002 Youreable calendar, which features six sexy disabled models. It costs £9.95, and can be ordered from the youreable website, see above.

NEW MODELS OUT NOW

Curved narrow stairs?

Choose Stannah, unbeatable on bends.

However awkward or winding your staircase, there's sure to be a Stannah Stairlift that's right for you.

- New and reconditioned models
- Straight or curved staircases
- Full guarantee • Fast, clean installation

FREEPHONE

0800 715 124 EXT. 2202

www.stannah.co.uk/stairlifts

Please send me details.

For my household ☐ For a relative ☐

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel.

Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 2202, FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.



Trust Stannah to make things easier.

Living in a hut – five years on

A disabled woman is living in a freezing hut in the middle of a field, five years after a council agreed to build her a safe new home.

Gillian McCarthy, 47, has multiple chemical sensitivity and lives in a ramshackle former holiday chalet, with no heating and no proper water or electricity.

She is unable to live in a normal house because her body reacts violently to chemicals given off by everyday materials.

Five years ago, South Somerset District Council (SSDC) agreed to invest £120,000 to build her a chemical-free house.

Ms McCarthy rejected the plans, claiming they included materials that were toxic to her.

The council then claimed it had discharged its legal duty to find her housing. It now says it is looking for an old agricultural property to renovate instead.

But Ms McCarthy, a nutritional biochemist and author, claimed the council is trying to fob her off with something that is "totally unsuitable".

She says she knows of a company that could build a suitable stone and glass bungalow by next spring.

Andrew Reynolds, strategic housing manager for SSDC, said the council was working with other partners to find a solution.

He said: "It is a very difficult situation and I think everybody is sympathetic."



Waiting to move: Ms McCarthy in her home – a former holiday chalet

Education U-turn

A disability education group has welcomed a government U-turn on a code outlining how special support should be given to disabled school children.

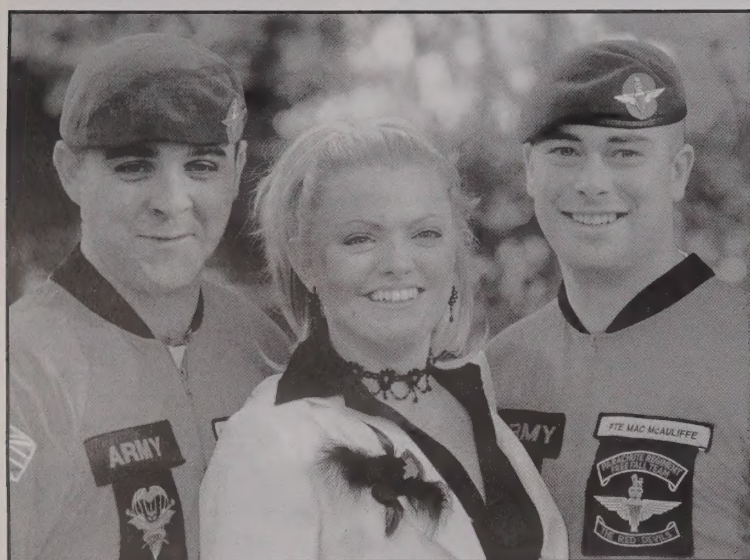
Amid the backlash, ministers also announced that funding to help meet special needs would be £91 million in 2002-3.

The government withdrew a draft Special Educational Needs Code of Practice in July after pressure from campaigners who were angry that it would not force education authorities to "quantify" in statements of special educational needs how much support, such as speech therapy, a child should be given.

They feared it would be used as a loophole allowing authorities to make the bare minimum in provision.

MPs approved an amended code in November which says that support should normally be quantified. The new code comes into force in January 2002 along with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act.

John Wright, chief executive of the Independent Panel for Special Education Advice, said: "They must now enforce this. If they cannot do that we will be back asking them to put it into law."



High fliers honoured

RADAR's People of the Year Awards 2001 at the Savoy hotel, London, acknowledged the achievements of 10 people, five of them disabled, raising a much needed £75,000 for the charity.

Paralympic gold medallist Tanni Grey-Thompson, BBC disability affairs correspondent Peter White, Pam Warren who was badly burned in the Paddington train crash, Sophie Mason (above) who would not let the loss of her legs after meningitis restrict her life – or

her parachute jumping – and visually impaired Caroline Casey, who made a fundraising trek across India on an elephant, were among the People of the Year. Racing driver Sir Jackie Stewart, who has dyslexia, received the 2001 Lifetime of Achievement Award.

The awards are RADAR's main annual fundraising event. Welcoming the money, director Kate Nash said: "We are confident that we will break even this year."

Benefit backtrack

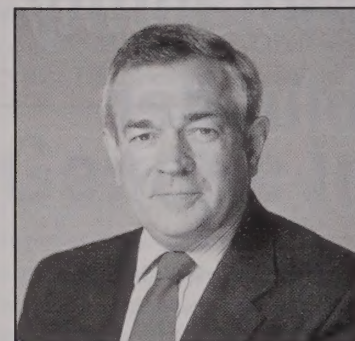
The government has backtracked over a planned benefit reform that would have hit people with learning disabilities who work part-time.

The Department for Work and Pensions had proposed new rules that would have severely cut the amount of time most people with learning disabilities could work while still claiming incapacity benefits.

It could also have affected people with mental health problems.

The rules would have allowed those on incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or income support based on incapacity, to work for up to 16 hours and earn up to £60.50 a week – but only for a maximum of one year. After that, they would have earned a maximum of £20 a week while still claiming benefits.

But, following concerns raised by disability organisations about the changes to the therapeutic earnings scheme, the government announced it had altered its proposals.



Work and Pensions Minister Malcolm Wicks (above) said people who need continual support to carry on working, including many people with learning disabilities, would not now be subject to the one year time limit when the new rules are introduced next April.

Birthday boost for Artsline

London arts information charity Artsline, which celebrates its 20th birthday this year, has picked up a top award for information providers.

The charity was among eight winners of the National Information Forum's Getting the Message Across Awards. Other winners were:

- Fair (Family Advice and Information Resource), an Edinburgh based charity, whose advice on testicular cancer for men with learning disabilities is now used nationwide
- gardening charity Thrive for its website: www.carryon-gardening.org.uk
- Norfolk County Council for three leaflets for carers,

asylum seekers and on making information accessible

- the Alzheimer's Society, Hounslow branch, for its booklet *A Guide to Dementia Care Services*
- Connect for *The Aphasia Handbook*
- the Co-operative Group for introducing braille labels on medicines
- and the disability computer charity AbilityNet which gives free information and advice to people in England and Scotland.

The Guthrie Memorial Lecture was given by Helen Bamber, OBE, who founded the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

Website: www.nif.org.uk

In brief

Parliament go-ahead

The British Council of Disabled People will seek funding from the government, trusts, and the public for a £2 million National Disabled People's Centre to house a 200 member disabled people's Parliament.

The projects were agreed to in principle at a meeting in November, confirming plans revealed in last month's DN.

The Parliament could be set up late next year and will provide a national voice for all disabled people.

DLA regulations

MPs have criticised the government's proposed changes to disability living allowance regulations.

So far, 33 MPs have signed an early day motion laid down by Plaid Cymru MP Simon Thomas, which calls for a debate on the issue.

Mr Thomas claims the changes will exclude people with severe psychological effects caused by physical impairments from claiming the lower rate mobility component.

disabilitywebguide.co.uk

information for people with disabilities, the elderly and infirm

www.disabilitybenefits.co.uk

advice on benefits, plus many charity links

www.nursingandhomecare.co.uk

providers of professional nursing & homecare services

www.holidays4disabled.com

hotels, guest houses, holiday parks & cottages etc.

www.hearingaiddispensers.com

find your local hearing aid specialist here

www.carehomedatabase.co.uk

looking for a care home then look no further than this site

www.mobilitydatabase.com

mobility equipment providers throughout the UK

www.cars4disabled.co.uk

Car Dealerships helping people with disabilities choose the right vehicle

www.ifadatabase.co.uk

help and advice on care/nursing home fees & care in the home fees

www.onlineemploymentconsultancy.co.uk

information and advice on employment and training options for disabled people to add your web site call Martin Baker on 01253 350001

Equipment demand

UK domestic law cannot be used to force manufacturers to make products accessible to disabled people because of the European single market, the author of a report has said.

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is calling instead for self regulation of the industry because alternative Europe-wide laws would take too long to implement.

It also calls for Europe-wide voluntary standards for inclusive design of products ranging from zips to washing machines.

The DRC report *Inclusive Design**, written by David

Yelding, chief executive of the research body Ricability, is partly based on the results of assessments done on 200 domestic appliances by the charity.

Yelding said: "We found that there was hardly anything which we would say was accessible. They are a mixture of good and bad features."

Some products, for example, might be easy to use by visually impaired people but difficult to use by people with manual dexterity problems.

The report said disabled and elderly people need to be more

involved in the design process.

"This is not rocket science," said Yelding.

Design colleges must also take on more disabled students in order to encourage disabled people to train as designers, the report said.

Bert Massie, DRC chair, said: "Disabled and older people are forced to choose between the limited range of products on offer or forced to buy expensive attachments to compensate for inadequate design."

* Free, tel: 08457 622633, textphone 08457 622644



Super scooter

A Swiss company has created the world's fastest electric scooter.

The scooter, which has made it into the 2002 *Guinness Book of Records*, (the German edition anyway), clocked up a speed of 116 kilometres (72.09 miles) per hour.

The vehicle, known as the Classic 100, is made by the company Kyburz Engineering.

Stefan Rittler, automotive

engineer at the company, said there were no plans for it to be used by people, "not when the police are near anyway."

The scooter is based on models produced by the company which are already used and go at a more sensible maximum speed of 18.6 mph.

Mr Rittler said: "We wanted to know how much power we could get off our standard motor."

Access gongs for seven of the best

A library that doubles as a training facility for disabled people has received a national accessibility award.

The Papworth Everard Library, in Papworth, near Cambridge, was one of seven winners in the annual ADAPT Trust awards.

Other winners of the awards for access to the arts for disabled people were the Brixworth Library in Northampton, the Cambridge Arts Theatre, Croydon's Clocktower cinema, the Cornerhouse cinema in Manchester, the Djanogly Recital Hall at the University of Nottingham and the Grosvenor Museum in Chester.

Meanwhile the De Vere White hotel in Bolton has come top in over 1,000 hotels surveyed for the AA's Accessible Hotel of the Year Award.

Baroness Wilkins, who judged the finalists, praised the hotel for the layout of her bedroom and bathroom and the service given by staff.



Freewheeling: Ade Adepitan and Ruth Madeley at the conference

Prejudice fails to hold back Kidz

Nearly two-thirds of non-disabled young people have never spoken to a physically disabled person their own age, a report* has found.

And just under two-thirds of disabled youngsters questioned in a further survey** by Whizz-Kidz, the mobility charity for youngsters, said they had experienced prejudice because of their disability.

The reports were based on surveys of 300 non-disabled and 236 disabled youngsters.

The news came as disabled young people held their own conference to raise awareness of the discrimination and prejudice they face.

The Free2B conference was the idea of the Kidz Board of Whizz-Kidz, which is made up of 12 young disabled people.

Kidz Board member Ellie Young, aged 18, from Kent, said the conference had inspired her to "write letters and make a fuss".

Guest speakers included actor, model and wheelchair user Luke Hamill, and Ade Adepitan (above, left), a member of the British wheelchair basketball team and TV presenter.

* *People Like Us?* and ** *Disability, Mobility and Self Perception*, from Children's Services, tel: 020 7233 6600.

Diabetes care dates delayed

The government has been criticised for refusing to set firm dates for new standards of care for people with diabetes.

The National Service Framework for Diabetes was due to be implemented from April 2002, but the government announced in October that it would be postponed.

Following the announcement, representatives of Diabetes UK met Health Minister Jacqui Smith to voice their concern.

The charity wants a firm date

for the publication of the standards of healthcare that people with diabetes should expect, and for a second document explaining how the new framework will be implemented.

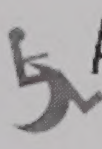
A spokesman for Diabetes UK said it also asked the government for assurances that local NHS bodies would receive support for diabetes service improvements.

He said many of the issues "remain unresolved" and the charity was "disappointed" at the government's failure to set

firm dates, although the minister had indicated that the standards would be published some time later this year and the delivery strategy next summer.

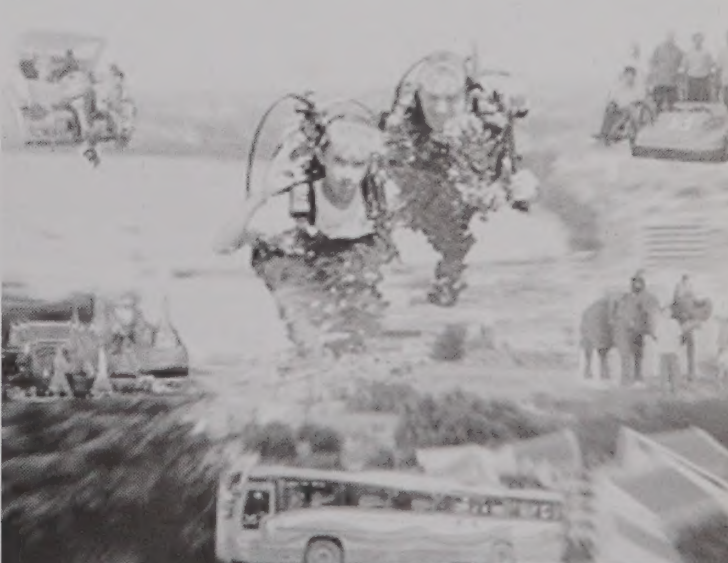
A Department of Health spokeswoman said she was unable to comment on a private meeting but confirmed the delivery strategy would be published next summer.

She said the main reason for the delay was to ensure the department knew how much money there would be to support the framework.



Adventure Holidays Thailand

Catering for the disabled & Less able



Our dedicated staff will be with you 24hrs a day to take care of all your special needs and will make sure that your holiday is one of a life time

www.adventure-holidays-thailand.com

E-mail staff@adventure-holidays-thailand.com

Phone +66 01 3714354 & +44 1235 810833

Scope to grow

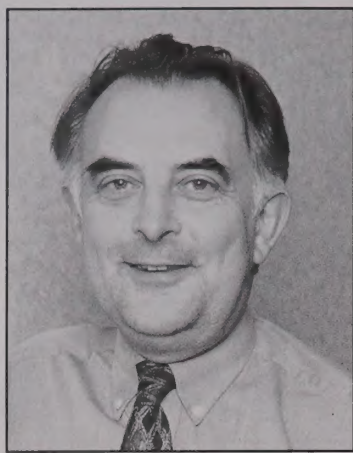
Despite being forced to cut back services last year, Scope is now benefiting from a comprehensive review and new financial rules, the AGM was told in November.

Hon treasurer Les Unwin revealed a deficit of £2.4m for 2000-1, with income slipping slightly to £90.1m.

Scope had to draw on £3.3m of its reserves to cover the deficit, leaving £10.9m, which is only enough to keep Scope working for about six weeks.

However, Les Unwin said the figures for 2002 were more reassuring. With spending under control, budgeting tightened up and shops sales no longer in decline, he was hoping for a small surplus. He was also determined to rebuild Scope's reserves.

Chief executive Richard Brewster talked of what was achieved in 2000-1 with £11m of fundraising income. This included maintaining the cp helpline and giving one-to-one family support. The Speak for Yourself campaign persuaded the Department of Health to commit money for communication aids and Scope has now won the contract to be sole provider of



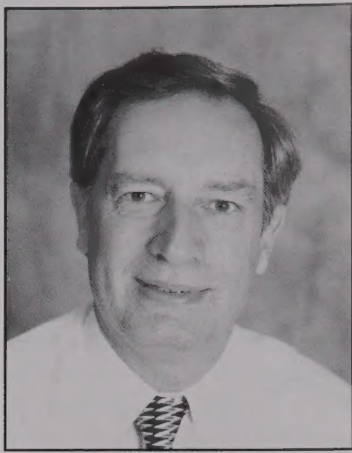
Call to broaden Scope: Richard Brewster (left) and Gerald McCarthy (right), the new chairman of the executive council.

assessment and communication aid support to young people with complex needs.

But he admitted services had cost more than Scope could afford, hence the five-year strategy, now into its second six months, which concentrates resources on the early years, education, work, daily living and the delivery of locally identified outcomes.

He apologised for the cuts which had to be made – a simplistic approach, he said, that leads to a shrinking organisation, less attractive to funders.

Instead he wanted Scope to grow so as to produce a surplus



and to continue raising money for specific projects which would in turn attract more funders.

"We need an environment in Scope in which innovation can flourish, innovation driven by the life experiences of the children and adults we support," he said. "And we must maintain the discipline not to spend money until we've got our hands on it."

Later, a working group on governance shared ideas on the organisation of Scope. Outgoing chairman, Jim Hoskisson, said: "There does need to be a shared opinion of what the organisation is and how it works."

Equality and jobs

Scope's employment policy came up twice in question time.

Individual member Julie Hathaway asked what plans Scope had to make equality a reality, eg, by employing more disabled people.

Richard Brewster replied that Scope had an equal opportunities policy. Research that was temporarily shelved would be taken up again in the new year. The figure of 4 per cent disabled people working for Scope was "too low" and perhaps some "quick wins", such as automatic interviews, could be introduced.*

Member Tracey Hillman was disappointed so few volunteers, especially people with impairments, were used in the West Country, when they gave their time for free.

Later, Ms Hillman told DN it was "appalling" that Scope switched to an automated answering service in Bristol. "When there's someone on the phone who has a child with cp, the voice you speak to is very important." She also saw volunteering as a way into employment for people like herself.

*A survey of 15 disability charities in DN July 2001 found that 2.98 per cent of Scope's staff are disabled. DN's figure is 54 per cent.



Bradshaw retires

The disability community said goodbye to a leading figure when Stephen Bradshaw OBE (above) retired in October.

As executive director of the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA), he challenged the medical views of spinal injury and championed the everyday needs of members. SIA campaigned successfully for a spinal injured person to have access to a psychologist, driving licenses until 70, reform of personal injury claims, direct payments and tube travel.

A founder member of the British Council of Disabled People, Bradshaw worked with disability guru Vic Finkelstein on the Disablement Income Group and Disabled People's International. He chaired the consortium Rights Now, which helped achieve civil rights.

"If I was attacked by the left and the right, I felt I'd got it right," he said.

SIA director Paul Smith said "You can't comprehend the impact you've made – thank you for being our role model for very many years."

Executive council changes

Eleven of Scope's 18-person council (almost two-thirds) have a disability. The new chairman is Gerald McCarthy, a council member since 1996. He replaces Jim Hoskisson who has retired. Vice-chairs are Peter Clery and Sandy Collington. Denise Bloomfield, Chris Davies, Larry Marsh, Ann Nicholas and John Yeats are new members.

GO FURTHER...

Introducing the Trumper, a unique electric all terrain buggy giving the physically challenged the ability to go further than ever before. A real outdoor buggy designed to cover rough ground, mud and grass safely. See our website or phone for a leaflet.



More than just a Class 3 vehicle, the Trumper is built to last.

High capacity sealed gel batteries and powerful electric motor monitored by sophisticated electronics.

Light steering with no 'Kick Back' or 'Bump Steer'.

Modular design with a wide range of accessories.

www.trumper.co.uk

01794 885814



Letter from Brussels

Richard Howitt



2003 is to be the European Year of Disabled People. It needs your support

"Despite considerable attention to promoting the rights of people with disabilities... a major effort is still needed to change basic attitudes".

This is a statement which most disabled people would agree with. It is also the conclusion of the proposal to make 2003 the European Year of Disabled People which was voted for in the European Parliament, Strasbourg, in early November.

Nearly £10m has been put aside to set up a series of continent-wide research, events and campaigns. It is planned to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the UN Standard Rules, still the most authoritative international

statement on disability rights.

Disability will be reflected in every European event held during the year, and we will be pressing again to hold a Disabled People's Parliament, drawing together disabled people from every constituency in the European Union.

Parliamentary support was crucial to the success of the proposal, which was piloted through committee by my British Liberal Democrat colleague Liz Lynne with myself from Labour, and leading French and Spanish Euro MPs.

One principle on which we insist is the full participation by disabled people, and organisations of disabled people, in the planning process and in all

activities. A free-standing committee for the year, initiated by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) here in Britain, is about to be established.

I appeal to everyone with an interest in disability rights to make contact with them, and to plan how you can contribute to making 2003 a success.

As we begin to establish legal rights for disabled people at the European level, the European Year marks an important opportunity to raise public awareness so that these rights are enforced.

Richard Howitt MEP is President of the European Parliament All-Party Disability Group of Euro MPs. DWP website: www.dwp.org.uk

News review

DN rounds up news covered in the main-stream media over the last few weeks

Beatle told "sorry"

Health bosses apologised to George Harrison and his family in the wake of an independent inquiry into his stabbing in December 1999. The report for the inquiry found failings in the care provided for Michael Abram, the man who carried out the attack.

St Helens and Knowsley Health Authority and St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust also apologised to Abram, who has complex mental health problems, and his family.

Poster child pay out

A child who has spinal muscular atrophy and sickle cell anaemia will receive £5,000 in damages from a council after it used her picture in an Aids awareness brochure without her family's consent.

The child Jacklyn Adeniji, 10, does not have Aids or HIV.

The council, which did not admit liability, will also have to pay court costs, which could reach another £50,000.

No-choice ruling

A pregnant woman with schizophrenia was told by a judge that she could not have an abortion.

The judge ruled that a termination would not be in her best interests.

He said his "very finely balanced" decision might have been different had the case been heard earlier in her pregnancy.

Woman sentenced

The boss of a care home who force-fed elderly residents with fluids was given a 15-month suspended prison sentence.

Angela Postill had told staff at the Carnarvon Lodge residential home in Clacton, Essex, to give many residents large amounts of liquids.

She admitted endangering the lives or health of two residents by wilful negligence.

These two women later died, but a judge at Chelmsford Crown Court made it clear Postill was not responsible for their deaths.



Hands on: Jeff McWhinney (left) and Murray Holmes of the British Deaf Association launched a sign-language campaign in October.

Call to broaden unity

The disability movement is ignoring disabled people who are also members of other minorities, said speakers at the Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD) conference in November.

Ruth Bashall, from the disabled gay rights group Regard, said there was homophobia among disabled people, but also a lack of understanding of

disability within the lesbian and gay community.

Disability rights campaigner Simone Aspis said that contributions of people with learning disabilities are often overlooked.

And Katie Caryer, aged 17, of the group Young and Powerful, issued a "rallying call to the disability movement to take up issues affecting the next generation of disabled people".



Project: University of Lincolnshire and Humberside Architect: ULH Architects



Product: DORMA ED800

The new student accommodation at The University of Lincolnshire and Humberside has been fitted with DORMA ED800 swing door operators, to provide increased access and independence to students.

A range of DORMA automatic door operators have been installed at the university to help meet the forthcoming requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

DORMA Entrance Systems offer a comprehensive range of automatic and revolving doors.

DORMA Entrance Systems Limited
Telephone: 01462 472500
Facsimile: 01462 472501
Email: autos@dorma-uk.co.uk



Back on the road: Michelle Mimnagh, 20, is learning how to run again – three years after losing her right leg in the Omagh bombing. Her new limb was supplied by Dorset Orthopaedic, a company recommended to Michelle by the model Heather Mills.

MS drug trial

Researchers hope new studies of a multiple sclerosis drug will lead to the first treatment for the most serious form of the condition.

More than 900 people with primary progressive MS in the US, France and at three UK centres are taking part in a three-year study of the drug glatiramer acetate (Copaxone).

There is currently no treatment for this form of the condition, although Copaxone is already licensed for use with relapsing-remitting MS.

Dr Phil Wood, medical

director of Teva Pharmaceuticals, which makes Copaxone, said the new study, which will include 36 people from the UK, was "very, very important".

He told DN: "This is an awful disease in which people who suffer from it see themselves going steadily downhill."

Copaxone is "highly effective" in treating people with relapsing-remitting MS, he said.

But government advisers have now said the drug is not even cost-effective in treating this form of the condition.

See also news pages.

Ground for asthma hope

A vaccine based on common bacteria found in soil could help people with asthma, say scientists.

Researchers at the University of Southampton are recruiting 120 volunteers for a clinical trial into a possible vaccine that uses the bacteria *Mycobacterium vaccae*.

The trial will focus on those who have persistent symptoms, despite the use of inhaled steroids.

It stems from studies which have shown that exposure to infections, for example among children living on farms, can protect against the development of asthma.

Some of the volunteers in the new trial will have two vaccinations of the bacteria.

Researchers hope this will stimulate the development of an effective immune system, allowing the volunteers to ward off allergies and asthma.

A spokeswoman for the National Asthma Campaign said it "welcomes further research into this area".

Anyone interested in taking part in the trial should call 023 8079 4343.

Vitamin D for diabetes

Researchers have found further evidence that an easily available vitamin supplement could help prevent diabetes.

A study of more than 10,000 children born in northern Finland in 1966 has shown that they were much less likely to develop type 1 diabetes if they took a vitamin D supplement such as cod-liver oil.

Dr Elina Hypponen, of the Institute of Child Health in London, told DN the results were "very exciting".

Dr Hypponen, the main

researcher on the study, published in *The Lancet*, carried out the analysis while working at the Tampere School of Public Health in Finland.

She said: "It's brilliant, in that it is something that could be done to prevent type 1 diabetes and it is even more intriguing when it is something as cheap and easily accessible as vitamin D supplement."

She said parents should ensure their children receive the recommended ten micrograms of vitamin D per day.

mobility solutions

01722 336048

**VAT FREE
CAR SALES**

....direct to your door

If you are a wheelchair user and need modifications to enable you to access or drive your car, we can supply your new car direct to you, already modified, free of VAT* Phone now for a quotation.

*Conditions apply



*this is a trademark of motability
Registered charity no.299745

With our 35 years experience of converting wheelchair accessible vehicles, few companies, we believe, have a wider experience of mobility transport and the needs of disabled users. If you are unsure of which vehicle is most suitable for your needs, ask us We are always happy to give advice.

We have a range of vehicles suitable for wheelchair drivers and passengers and also offer a comprehensive adaptation service for standard production vehicles including driving systems, wheelchair and passenger access systems, seats and much more. WE'RE ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY.

**PHONE TODAY
FOR AN INFORMATION PACK
OR FREE HOME DEMONSTRATION**

MOBILITY SOLUTIONS LTD

FARADAY ROAD, CHURCHFIELDS IND. EST.
SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE SP2 7NR

TEL : 01722 336048 . FAX : 01722 416241

Email: mobilitysolutions@talk21.com . Web Site: www.mobilitysolutionsltd.co.uk

**£500
DISCOUNT**

Winter Sale

**£500 Discount Off
list prices for orders
received by 1st February 2002
on wheelchair accessible
vehicle list prices**

**KANGOO
EXPERT
VITO**

**list price from £12282.00#
list price from £16223.00#
list price from £17050.00#**

prices correct at 1.11.01



New Scots' housing law

A new housing law now forces local authorities in Scotland to keep records of local housing suitable for disabled people.

All 32 Scottish local authorities also have to consider the needs of people with physical disabilities in their housing plans, thanks to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, which came into effect in November.

They must also explain how they will use schemes to help disabled owner occupiers organise repairs and improvements.

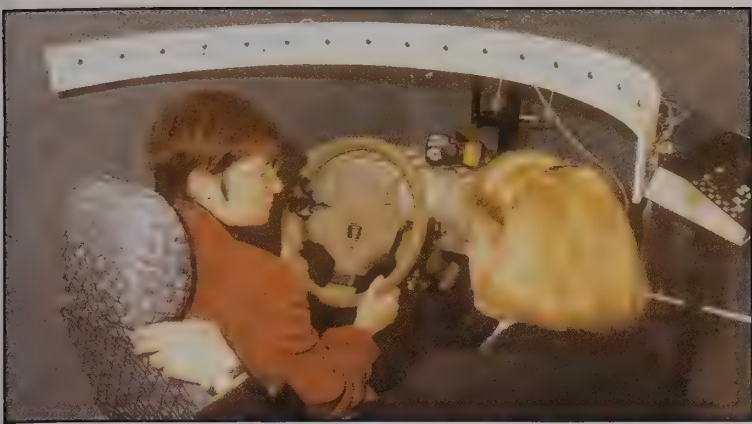
Up to 20 per cent of disabled people in Scotland are believed to live in unsuitable housing.

Jackie Baillie, Scottish Social Justice Minister believes that increasing the amount of suitable housing will allow disabled

people to live where they want and in the tenure they choose.

Meanwhile, a new booklet, *Home Truths*, published by the charity Ownership Options in Scotland, offers advice to disabled people who want to own their own homes.

* £3.50, £5 for the booklet and CD, p&p, tel: 0131 661 3400, e-mail: oois@talk21.com



Driving ambition: Scottish transport minister Sarah Boyack met Janet Wightman in a newly launched mobile driving assessment vehicle.

Fears in Brum

Wheelchair users from Birmingham visited London to present a petition to MPs about feared day centre closures.

Users of the Fairway day centre were due to attend a meeting with five Birmingham MPs at the House of Commons in November.

Birmingham council faces a current social services overspend of about £3 million.

Wheelchair user Henry Cooper told *DN* he feared that eight day centres could be under threat.

Mr Cooper said: "The petition has been signed by dozens and dozens of disabled people in Birmingham."

A council spokeswoman said: "There is no current proposal to make budget savings within Birmingham social services by closing day centres or rehabilitation centres."

She added that the council has been "redesigning" adult services.

Culture to cap it all

Disability arts groups are to take a major role in helping the wider London arts sector improve access to disabled people.

London Arts (LA), a regional arts board, made the pledge in a new London Arts Disability Action Plan.*

This would include disability arts groups providing equality training.

LA will also look at the possibility of setting up a Disability Arts Centre in London and will work with transport providers to improve accessible transport schemes to arts venues.

From 2002, fixed term funding will be dependent on organisations dealing with disability issues across the board.

LA says arts organisations should set targets for programmes which include work by disabled artists and art by people with learning disabilities.

* Free tel: 020 7608 6148

December promotional price on Chairman Kangoo



a whole world of possibilities now starts from £11,900*



Chairman Kangoo

for economic and stylish mobility



Gowrings Mobility understands your mobility needs and offers a rare combination of personal customer service and choice of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

- **Nationwide** free test drive and demonstration service
- 3 year **no quibble** conversion **warranty**
- Friendly and **experienced** sales advisors
- All servicing carried out at your **local** garage.

To find out how you can experience the pleasures of easy motoring call the **Freephone** number below for your free **Chairman** information pack, or call our Sales Advice line on **01635 529500**.



"I didn't realise how hard it was lifting Olivia and her special chair in and out of our old 4 door car. The Chairman Kangoo makes every outing so easy, I find we are going out more and more - which is great!"

MRS ELAINE SLOANE & OLIVIA, CHESHIRE

gowrings mobility

a whole world of possibilities

www.gowringsmobility.co.uk



recognised converter

Notability accredited supplier

Call Free 0800 220878

*£11,900 is a promotional price the Chairman Renault Kangoo and applies on orders taken in December 2001 only
Gowrings Mobility Ltd. Bone Lane, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5UE. Tel: 01635 529500. Fax: 01635 529400



now youreable.com to motor

Visit www.youreable.com for information and advice on disability, Motoring, Work, Money, Equipment and Travel

Versa®

UNIQUE TO
WIDNES
CAR CENTRE

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

STYLE, COMFORT, CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY MAKES OUR VERSA FAMILY RANGE THE BENCHMARK OF QUALITY...

ALL OUR VEHICLES ARE SUPERBLY EQUIPPED, BACKED WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL BUILD QUALITY THAT WILL GIVE YOU PEACE OF MIND.

"WE HAVE A LARGE SELECTION OF USED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSABLE VEHICLES AVAILABLE FROM

£6,495

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR THE LATEST LIST OF VEHICLES"



*This is a trademark of Motability: registered charity number 299745

WIDNES CAR CENTRE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE FOR LIMITED PERIOD

NISSAN VANETTE

REDUCED BY A MASSIVE

£1,000 NOW ONLY

£13,495

HURRY OFFER ENDS 31st DECEMBER 2001

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, FREE BROCHURE PACK OR TO ARRANGE A DEMONSTRATION PLEASE CONTACT PHIL BEECHAM OR MIKE JONES (NEW VERSA ENQUIRIES), PHIL HAWKINS (USED VERSA SPECIALIST).

VERSA SALES

WIDNES CAR CENTRE LIMITED, MOOR LANE, WIDNES CHESHIRE WA8 7AL.

TEL: 0151 420 2000

FAX: 0151 495 1382

website: www.wheelchair-access.co.uk

e-mail: versa@wheelchair-access.co.uk

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9.00AM - 5.30PM



*(LVA)-LOW VOLUME TYPE APPROVED

VW & MERCEDES ARE AVAILABLE AS AUTOMATICS.

ALL PRICES ASSUME VAT AND ROAD FUND LICENSE ZERO RATING.

RENAULT MASTER 2.2 DCI
£16,350
ON THE ROAD

***VW800 SPECIAL 1.9 TURBO DIESEL (LVA)**
£14,495
ON THE ROAD

MERCEDES BENZ VITO 2.1 DIESEL
£16,645
ON THE ROAD

2.0 PETROL
£16,795
ON THE ROAD

TOYOTA HIACE ONLY
£14,595
ON THE ROAD

***NISSAN VANETTE 2.3 DIESEL (LVA)**
£13,495
ON THE ROAD

When rights go wrong

Recent events have raised hopes for people who want to resist compulsory mental health treatment. But will the government bow to pressure? John Pring reports

The tabloids like nothing better than whipping up public hysteria when someone with a mental health problem attacks a stranger after refusing medication.

Mental health campaigners say the government is pandering to this hype by allowing the increasing use of compulsory psychiatry for people with psychiatric conditions.

But a Court of Appeal decision has given an unexpected boost to those fighting to reduce such compulsory powers.

The court found that, under the Human Rights Act, a 67-year-old man, Mr A, who can't be named for legal reasons, could only be forcibly injected with anti-psychotic drugs if his doctor could prove such treatment was a medical necessity.

Forcibly treating him could be "inhuman or degrading treatment" that violated the European Convention on



Mental health action: The Mental Health Alliance protests outside Downing Street calling for less compulsory treatment for mental health problems.

Human Rights, the judges decided.

If doctors want to inject Mr A with the drugs again, they will have to argue their case in the High Court.

Such comments could not have come at a better time for campaigners fighting against what the Mental Health Alliance has called "the rising trend in the use of compulsion".

A white paper on reforming the Mental Health Act (MHA) appeared last December, causing deep concern with its emphasis on introducing compulsory care and treatment

of people in the community.

Lucy Scott-Moncrieff, Mr A's solicitor, says the judges' decision will force the government to reconsider these proposals.

She says: "I think it is really important and the Department of Health (DoH) are going to have to look again at their criteria for compulsory treatment in the community."

Simon Foster, principal solicitor for the mental health charity Mind, believes the government should now review all of its proposals for treatment, in the light of the judges' remarks.

He says: "The government should be looking again at compulsion and treatment, whether in hospital or out, when the individual plainly has sufficient mental capacity to consent or refuse that treatment."

A new mental health bill was expected to appear in this year's Queen's Speech, but was quietly dropped by the government.

Even before the latest ruling, some mental health charities already hoped the bill's delay would give them time to persuade the government to back off from introducing what it calls Community Treatment

Orders (CTOs). But the DoH has so far given no sign that it will soften its stance.

A DoH spokeswoman told DN that a new bill would be introduced "as soon as parliamentary time allows," and that it would "both safeguard the rights of patients and better protect the public" and allow treatment in "more appropriate" settings.

Following the Court of Appeal ruling, the DoH spokeswoman said: "We have noted the outcome of the case, and will be considering what action to take as regards any new legislation."

Many service users, though, see CTOs more as an attack on

MHA, he claims, because of their opposition to compulsory powers. The government says ministers merely decided to use another method of consultation.

Service users also resigned from a group set up to look at the Mental Health National Service Framework because of the government's attitude towards compulsory treatment.

Shaughnessy says these two incidents are symptomatic of the government's attitude. "They are treating us as inferior and second-class citizens."

"We think in the long run they are just going to drive people underground and lose that trust that is very important in building up mental health services."

Daniel Levy, from north-west London, who has manic depression, believes compulsory treatment should only take place "in the most extreme cases".

"I like the Court of Appeal ruling. I think it is a common sense interpretation. Compulsory treatment does concern me, because it is such an enormous block on a person's human rights," he says.

He calls on the government to look at its proposed CTOs "very, very carefully".

This summer, the Mental Health Alliance – an umbrella body that includes most leading mental health charities – launched its Charter for Consensual Treatment.

It urged the government to use a new MHA to reverse the rising trend of compulsory treatment.

Lesley Warner, of the Mental Health Foundation, an alliance member, agrees that the government's decision to delay a new act was "bad news", but

'We think in the long run they are just going to drive people underground and lose that trust that is very important in building up mental health services.'

the idea of an inclusive mental health system.

Pete Shaughnessy, a psychiatric patient and member of Mad Pride, an organisation fighting discrimination against mental health patients, has deep concerns about the slide towards a more "coercive" system.

National user representatives were barred from joining a committee that reviewed the

it has given campaigners time to raise their concerns about the act, "particularly around compulsory treatment within the community".

The question now is whether the government will use the delay to reposition its stance on compulsory treatment, or whether it will maintain its stubborn refusal to listen to its critics.



Sound mind: Daniel Levy (above) finds promise in the current ruling.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

NEW AND USED

from £4,995*

call 023 9275 6265 now!

www.atlasconversions.co.uk



*Price correct at print deadline



Atlas

CONVERSIONS

MANUFACTURER APPROVED CONVERSIONS by

Still in the try-ing game

Former rugby star Alastair Hignell will be denied access to the new trial of a multiple sclerosis drug, he tells John Pring. But he will keep fighting, just as he does for accessible rugby grounds



Sporting chance: Hignall at home in Bristol

The frustration hit Alastair Hignell in October as he sat in his Bristol apartment watching the World Half Marathon runners stream past his window.

"I was never a great runner, but the feeling that I cannot run now is very frustrating. Whether that is because I was a sportsman, I don't know."

Hignell is a rugby commentator for BBC Radio Five Live. But more than 20 years ago, he was full-back for the England rugby team and playing county cricket for Gloucestershire. He had also captained Cambridge University's rugby and cricket sides.

The esteem in which he is held by the sporting

community was made clear after the public learned last year that he had multiple sclerosis (MS). Most notably there was a series of fund-raising events, organised by various friends and former sporting colleagues.

The first was a dinner at the Café Royal in London, attended by the entire England rugby team and a string of other sports and broadcasting stars, which raised more than £150,000. Hignell has found the fund-raising "embarrassing", but also "fantastically gratifying, moving and emotional".

But why was it necessary? After all, he continues to work for the BBC and is determined to do so for as long as possible.

The answer is beta interferon. After his MS was first diagnosed – the date, 8 January, 1999, is branded on his mind – his consultant said he could not prescribe the drug because he did not fit "the criteria", even though it could help him.

So now, unlike those in some neighbouring health authorities, Hignell has to find £11,200 a year to pay for the drug.

"I don't know if I could justify that amount of money

out of my salary to try and get it. But for the generosity of people in sport, I'd be in a horrible dilemma," he says.

In a fresh blow, he learned in October that the government is to fund extensive trials of beta interferon for those with relapsing-remitting MS, but not for his own condition, secondary progressive.

He says beta interferon seems to slow down his type of MS. "If I can slow the progress down, to my mind it is absolutely justifiable to take it and imperative that it should be provided on the NHS."

Even so, he welcomes the government's proposals. "It's about time they had a wider trial and cleared up the controversy for good," he says.

Hignell stresses how important the support of his wife, Jeannie, has been in coping with the condition. When he told her the diagnosis, she said simply: "It's not yours, it's ours."

Despite this, the job's demands are still significant. The equipment he has to carry is heavy. There is also a lot of walking, and note-taking is becoming more difficult. But he is still only 46 years old and is desperate to carry on working, commentate on the World Cup in 2003 and cover the next British and Irish Lions tour in 2005, even if by then he has to ask for more help.

Unfortunately, he also has to deal with the inaccessibility of many of this country's top rugby grounds.

To many rugby fans, Wales' glorious new Millennium Stadium in Cardiff is "the best stadium in the world". To Hignell, it has been the worst.

Until recently, he had to park more than a mile away from the ground. After post-match interviews on the opposite side of the stadium, he would struggle up six flights of stairs to return to the commentary box,

'I don't know if I could justify that amount of money out of my salary to get beta interferon. But for the generosity of people in sport, I'd be in a horrible dilemma'

His BBC bosses, he says, have been "absolutely brilliant", helping him find new technology to make his job easier, and giving him Mondays off for various "rehabilitation and recharge" therapies.

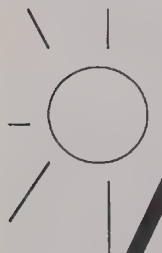
as the stewards had left and switched the lifts to "down" mode. This year, he at least had a parking space and a lift key.

Club grounds are nearly as bad. To reach the commentary box at Bath, he has to climb a ladder. In fact, if he has a choice of two matches to report on, he often chooses the one with better access.

Even so, he prefers the diplomatic approach to the rant, and takes every opportunity to offer "polite and subtle suggestions" to club owners and companies building new stands.

He is also helping raise funds for other people with MS. He backs a £1 million appeal at the therapy centre he uses in Nailsea and is also president of a £1.25 million appeal to build the MS Nerve Centre, a centre of excellence that will offer research and treatment at Bristol's Frenchay Hospital. He has persuaded Bath and England stars Mike Catt and Matt Perry to be campaign figureheads.


They probably took little persuading. As Hignell says: "If multiple sclerosis can strike me as a former professional sportsman, it is a sign that it can strike anybody." *Contact the Multiple Sclerosis Nerve Centre Appeal at the Old Pain Clinic, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol BS16 1LE or tel: 0117 918 6757.*




Living Options

Your move towards independent living


Small Group Homes on the West Sussex Coast for young people (18+) with physical disabilities



easy access to shops, cafes, pubs.....



adapted transport for cinemas, concerts, clubs and colleges.



To find out more call Gill on 01243 672989 or Nick on 01243 672741

Registered charity no. 299206

Recognising Individual Achievement

...because as a national residential college for disabled students Hereward also welcomes people who are not disabled... because at Hereward all students enjoy access to a mainstream further education curriculum... because individual students need an individual approach.

Vocational and academic options from Entry to Level 3 are available in the following areas:

Applied Science, Maths and Information Technology

Business Studies

Creative Studies

Media Studies and Modern Languages

Basic Skills Options

Independence Training

Full nursing, care enabling and therapist support is available. To find out more, please contact:

Admissions, Hereward College, Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry CV4 9SW
Tel: 024 7646 1231 (Minicom Available).

Applications from people with disabilities are especially welcome. Hereward College exists to provide education and training to its community of customers.



HEREWARD COLLEGE ... OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

A Brotherwood conversion is much more than just skin deep

0% APR Finance

On limited edition VW Sharan SL conversions

Max loan £10,000 over 3 years subject to status.

Vehicle conversions are very different although the base car may be the same.

Those customers who choose to visit the factory have the opportunity to look "beneath the skin" and see for themselves the detailed quality workmanship that goes into each individual car.

Design starts by sitting

the wheelchair on the

level with comfort and dignity

for the passenger being the main priority. Simple loading and tested security systems makes life easy for the partner/carer/driver.

Whether you choose to travel with your partner or family -

VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN

Sharan With standard roof (54" headroom)

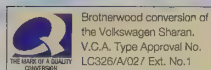
from **£26,264.40**

(2.0 'S' petrol, manual 6 speed)

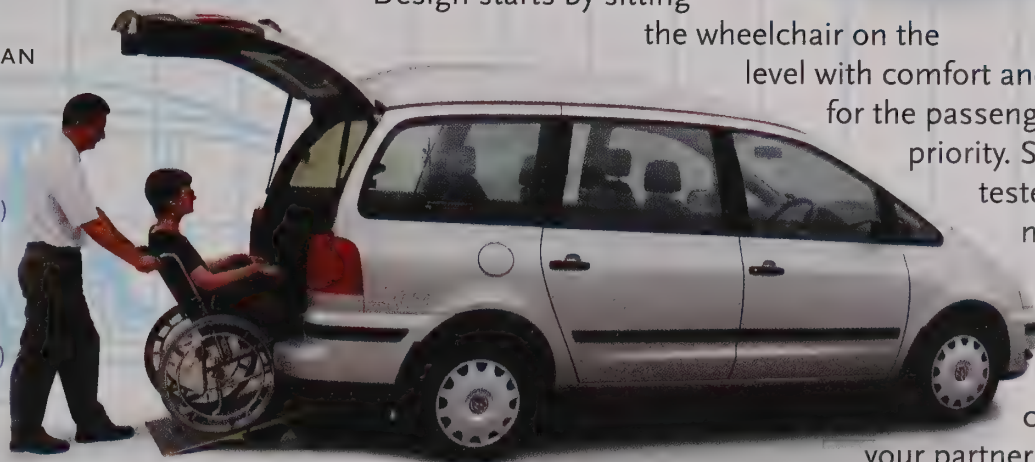
Including raised roof (59" headroom)

from **£27,714.40**

(2.0 'S' petrol, manual 6 speed)



Brotherwood conversion of the Volkswagen Sharan. V.C.A. Type Approval No. LC326/A/02/Ext. No.1



RENAULT KANGOO

Kangoo from **£14,081.26**

- Petrol 1.4 Authentique - Manual 5 speed or Automatic, Diesel available!

Low & Level floor (61" flat floor conversion) with 58" headroom



Brotherwood conversion of the Renault Kangoo. Diesel and Automatic available. V.C.A. Type Approval under application.



CITROËN BERLINGO

Berlingo Compact from **£13,997.40**

- 1.4i Petrol Forte - Manual 5 speed, Low & Level floor

(61" flat floor conversion) with 57" headroom



Brotherwood conversion - Citroën Berlingo. 3 door V.C.A. Type Approval No. LC334/A/036. 5 door Type Approval under application.

Brotherwood conversions deserve a closer look!

FIAT MULTIPLA

Multipla from **£19,987.00**

- Petrol 1.6 SX - Manual 5 speed or Diesel available. Low & level floor through to forward position with 56" headroom as standard roof.



Brotherwood conversion of the Fiat Multipla in current development & test programme. V.C.A. Type Approval under application.

BROTHERWOOD
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP
e-mail: sales@brotherwood.com • www.brotherwood.com

Phone now for more details and availability, on
Tel: 01935 872603 or Fax: 01935 872853

NEW OR USED • SHORT & LONG TERM HIRE • FINANCE • INSURANCE • AFTER SALES SERVICE • BUY-BACK SERVICE

Visit our website www.brotherwood.com for more information on our complete range of conversions



Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Converters Association



* This is a V.C.A. Type Approval under application.

Caught in the World Wide Web

It's been a busy year for disability related internet sites, but which ones have been worth the world wide wait? Dan Batten reports

Life would be unthinkable for many people without a regular session on the internet. From paying that dreaded bill to talking with a new "cyberfriend" on the other side of the world, the software invented in 1980 by Tim Berners-Lee to help him make links between different computers has touched people all over the planet.

Many websites have opened virtual doors for disabled people, and have actively targeted them as their core audience.

An elite few, such as *www.youreable.com*, have attracted considerable interest. The brainchild of wheelchair

built with little or no backing. Peter Billaney, 44, is webmaster at *www.eurobilty.com*, which he created after aggravating a long-term back injury, severely restricting his mobility.

Eurobilty's feel is similar to *Youreable's*, and although Peter makes no money directly from the site, the time spent on it pays dividends.

"The site gets lots of hits and I've made many friends through it," he says. Since launching the site, he has received commissions to build websites and is currently helping to launch a new dot com.

Despite some high-profile successes, many sites remain inaccessible.

had good access for learning disabled people. Those that could be improved included the Houses of Parliament and Arsenal Football Club sites.

But some mainstream sites have been praised. The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) issues a "See It Right" award for those whose sites are easily accessible to visually impaired people.

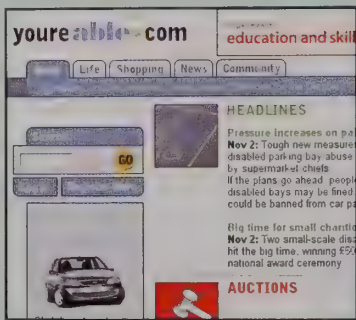
Recent winners include supermarket Tesco's online store (*www.tesco.com/access*), built in conjunction with the RNIB, and investment company Standard Life's site (*www.sli.co.uk*).

The Web Access Initiative (WAI) has clear guidelines as to what can help, but many either ignore them or don't know they exist. "Many disabled people make their way onto the web, but just don't find enough accessible sites to make using it worth their while," says Arlene Kline, from The Usability Company, specialists in improving internet technology to the benefit of the user.

It is in web designers' interests to have maximum accessibility. IBM were sued last year after their site for the 2000 Olympics was deemed inaccessible and the



Hands on: Donna Hazell (above) uses the internet to work and follow the music world, while sites such as *Youreable* (below left) and *EuroBilty* (below right) provide disability information.



'I would not have been able to access the manufacturers of the drug or get answers to all of my questions without the web' – Tim Midgley

user Joe Rajko, *Youreable* won Channel 4's *eMillionaire* show and a million pounds worth of support to get the site up and running. Six months on and it contains hundreds of pages of disability related information, a strong community section and regular news updates.

While substantial backing helps, quality sites have been

Recent research by internet development company Aspect Internet showed that 94 percent of sites belonging to companies on the FTSE 100 index were inaccessible, with more than two-thirds proving "useless" when used in text-only formats.

The charity Mencap also reviewed 30 leading UK sites, and found that only 13 of these

Disability Now's comprehensive holiday coverage begins in the January 2002 issue

So, if you want 70,000 readers to see what your company can offer, or the benefits of staying in your accommodation, call Richard or Patrick now!

Richard

Tel: 020 7619 7336

email: richard.gresham@scope.org.uk

Patrick

Tel: 020 7619 7320

email: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

Fax: 020 7619 7331

revised code of practice to the Disability Discrimination Act has implications for internet based service providers. Kline says: "It is not a case of if a prosecution occurs, but when and to whom".

Despite standing accused of making people more anti-social, the web can help to get disabled people out of their homes and, as a result, share their knowledge with others.

Donna Hazell, 29, teaches computer skills to older people who have had strokes at the Manor Gardens Community Centre in Holloway, North London, and she is just introducing her students to the net.

Donna, who has spina bifida and is a wheelchair user, says her students can sometimes "look a bit confused when the web pages pop up".

Her skills put her in touch with many different people and help her social life greatly.

Donna uses the web to find out about disability issues and to check out the music world. "I know quite a few disabled people, and information on the web gives me a bit more

understanding about what their disability involves," she says.

This sort of information can have life-changing consequences.

Tim Midgley, 49, sustained a head injury in an accident which left him with upper motor neuron syndrome and severe spasticity. He logged on to the internet to find out what could help him after the consultants treating him "talked way over my head".

As a result of Tim's surfing, he found out about Continuous Intrathecal Baclofen Infusion (CIBI), a method which delivers the muscle-relaxing drug Baclofen into the spinal fluid through a pump in the stomach.

This has made his life much more bearable and he credits the web for it wholly. "I would not have been able to access the manufacturers of the drug or the implant system or get answers to all of my questions without the web," he says.

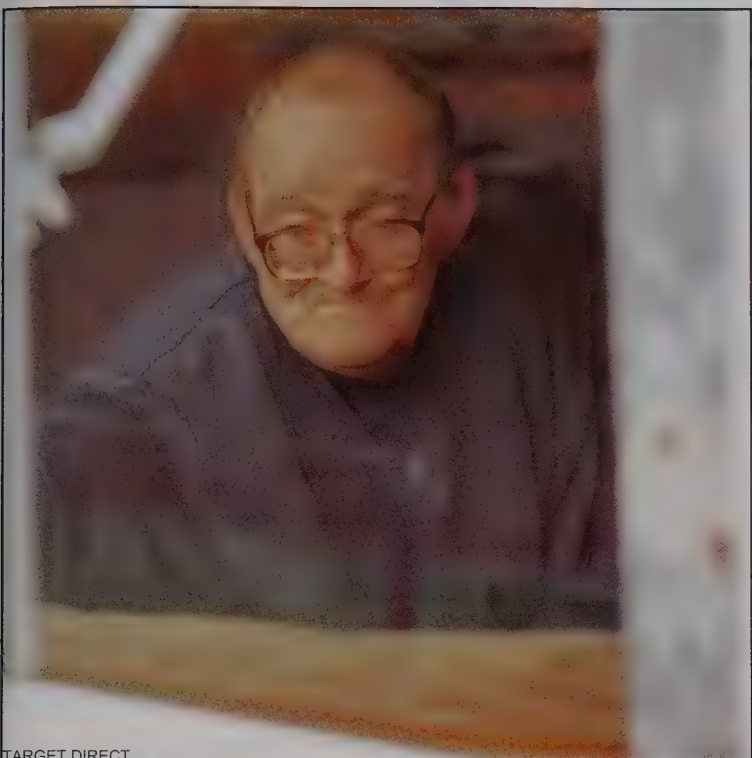
Although the web has helped many, the industry still has a lot to learn. It is clear that we are many a mouse click away from the web being a universally accessible hit.

Pick of the clicks

- www.disabilitynow.org.uk – The *DN* website
- www.youreable.com – the "one stop shop for disabled people"
- www.eurobilty.com – an "online community for the disabled"
- www.abilitynet.co.uk – computer equipment for disabled people
- www.w3.org/wai – guidelines to accessible web design
- www.theusabilitycompany.com – website testing and research

Disability**NOW** December 2001

Lonely this Christmas?



While people are getting ready for the holidays, many who are disabled and elderly are preparing for a lonely time. Ann Darnbrough suggests ways to alleviate the solitude

What is it about Christmas? For some people, it is an important Christian festival. For others, it is a wild spending splurge. And for many, it is a special family occasion.

But what about the times in our lives when there are no children or family to share the festival with? What's the point in cooking a special meal, lighting the Christmas pud and putting up decorations alone?

I remember one lonely Christmas with no family, when I tried to carry on as though 25 December was no different to any other 25th of the month and I could just welcome a few days at home. But the world outside seemed to stop, and the TV showed nothing but people having jolly parties. I must admit I cried a lot.

Solitude is a part of all our experience at some time in our lives. And while it may be difficult at first, it is worth

learning not just to adapt, but to enjoy it too.

This takes careful thought. First of all, what are you going to do with all that time alone?

Perhaps it can be seen as a time to take stock, a time to toss aside the well-worn novels and start on some new books about the interesting things happening around you. You could start planning to become part of the new year ahead.

To my mind, there is no better way to get rid of loneliness than by joining in community activities – even at Christmas.

Your nearest library will have all the information you need to plan what you are going to do over the next year.

So what else can you do? Lots of people have made good friends in internet chat rooms. There are thousands of these, where you can virtually meet like-minded people who could become real friends – all at the touch of a button.

Remember that there are lots of other people out there who will also be alone at Christmas.

You might also ask your local newspaper what's going on at Christmas for single people and see if you can help or get involved in any way. Some local radios run Christmas lines. You can tell them you'll be alone and they will let you know about parties and welcoming groups.

You could also get involved in adult education as a way to both combat loneliness and expand your horizons. A helpline, Learndirect, can tell you about a wide range of opportunities. Recent research has shown that concentration on study takes the mind off many physical, mental and emotional problems.

Above all, don't forget that father Christmas has only his reindeer for company. His secret for happiness is to make the rest of us happy.

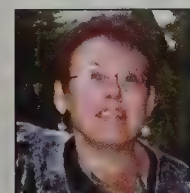
A time to reflect: the time alone over the holidays can be spent planning ways to make contact with others in the new year.

Helen Tate, 35, from Bath

Helen was lonely when she first moved into her own flat. "I needed something to occupy my time."

She approached the ShawTrust, and volunteered to work in their shop, where she puts in about three days a week. "Being disabled myself, I knew about working with disabled people, and they jumped at this." She also works in an Oxfam shop and studied successfully for a GCSE in English language.

Besides the theatre, "an activity I've grown to love is tall ship sailing. I'm hoping to go for my seventh trip next year. Everyone, disabled and non-disabled, pulls together. We help cook and clean and learn to steer, and I have been winched up the mast in a wheelchair. The night watch can be lonely when you are at sea, though, when you have to stay alert for passing ships."



Marion, 53, from East Anglia

Like many people with disabilities, I've known how it feels to be lonely and socially isolated. In my late forties, having come out of a failed marriage, I had few friends or social contacts, and felt unattractive and disheartened. I resigned myself to being single, especially since I realised that I'd prefer a same-sex relationship.

A chance encounter led to an invitation to an Outsiders lunch, in London. Thinking it was merely a lunch club, I was pleasantly surprised to find a friendly, vibrant and active group that welcomed me with open arms. Through Outsiders, I discovered another nationwide group – GEMMA – for disabled and able-bodied lesbian and bisexual women. Support from Outsiders and GEMMA members helped me rebuild my self-esteem.

It feels now as if I've been given a new lease of life – I have friends all over the country, travel to London meetings when I can, and help to organise an Outsiders lunch group in East Anglia.

Jim Thomson, 75, from Kilmarnock

Jim has lived on his own since his wife died four years ago. He's had diabetes for over 20 years with associated visual impairment, and in June this year his doctor told him that nothing else could be done for his sight.

Jim was a long distance bus driver, but now he can't go far because of breathing difficulties and poor balance. He feels cut off because family members have died, his only neighbour works full time, and he can no longer read books or a phone directory.

"I do feel pretty lonely," he says. "My wife and I were an item; we lived for each other. Now, when people come, it is for a short time and then they go away – it leaves me feeling worse."

But he's pleased he'll be staying with his son and daughter-in-law over Christmas. He makes a point of getting out to collect his paper and the milk every day. He also takes himself to a lunch club and collects tapes from the library. "You've got to keep your independence," he says.

Gemma, B M Box 5700, London WC1N 3XX,
e-mail: gemma@group@hotmail.com

Learn Direct: 0800 100 900,
web: www.learndirect.co.uk

The Outsiders Club: P.O. Box 28724,
London E18 1XW, tel: 020 8220 5949,

Jubilee Sailing Trust, Hazel Road, Woolston,
SO9 7BG, tel: 023 8044 9108, web: www.jst.org.uk

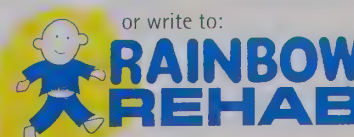


"IT'S ALL SO EASY NOW"

The Euroflex Compact electric wheelchair helps you get on top of those everyday difficulties



For full information call
FREEPHONE 0500 618008



RAINBOW REHAB (Dept DN)
FREEPOST, The Coach House, 134 Purewell
Christchurch, Dorset BH23 1BR
www.rainbow-rehab.co.uk

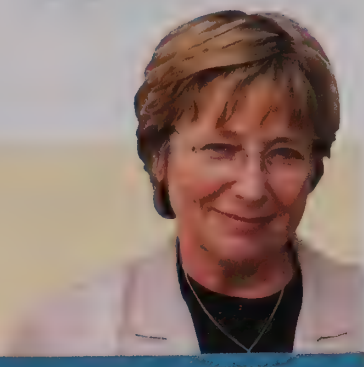
- Compact base and front wheel drive for easy operation at home or in the workplace
- Comfort and stability outside even over rough or uneven ground
- Easy access through confined or narrow spaces
- Powered seat lift adjustment as standard
- Optional powered tilt, recline and footrest elevation, and choice of seats



ILLUSTRATIONS: CLARE CURTIS

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the editor
Mary Wilkinson, Disability Now,
6 Market Road, London N7 9PW,
minicom: 020 7619 7332,
fax: 020 7619 7331,
e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



Motability says no to tyre change

Having been a professional driver for over 45 years and an ex-driving instructor for cars and HGVs, I was shocked by a recent decision of the Motability fleet controller.

Our car is a Volkswagen 1.9TDI estate, which I find hazardous to drive on wet or snow covered roads as it has a tendency to slide even with gentle braking.

Recently, I had to cancel a trip to Holland because I had just over 2mm on my tyre treads at the front. The minimum for Europe is 2mm;

in the UK it is 1.5mm.

Not wishing to take any chances of going below European requirements, I had asked for my tyres to be changed. My ATS tyre unit told me if they changed my tyres, Motability would charge them for the un-used mileage left on the tyres.

I explained to Motability that I was about to go to Holland and could I have them changed. The answer was "no". I would have to drive until they were under 2mm. When I said that was illegal for Europe,

I was told it was not in the UK. No matter what I told them about the instability of the car on wet roads or my proposed trip, the answer was still "no".

So I cancelled my trip and drove the car for another 1,500 miles. I am now considering if the Motability scheme is really beneficial for disabled people. **Raymonde Grimmer** (e-mail) *DN's motoring correspondent*, *Douglas Campbell, comments: "It just goes to show that the Motability scheme lacks the flexibility to meet the needs of some of its users."*

Come on, Sky, pay for subtitling

An excellent article about cochlea implants (*DN*, November). I have one.

I am writing to beg you to take up the issue of subtitling. Sky and Online have only one of their programmes subtitled, *Sky One*. Thus Sky is useless to me.

I know subtitling is

expensive and Sky has shareholders, but...

Deafness is a disability that cannot be seen. "Oh, you don't look deaf" is a frequent comment. But once folk understand, they are all so obliging.

Ann Roest
Port Solent

Shower chair

Adam Thomas (*DN*, October) said he looked in vain for "a nice, sleek, stainless steel" shower chair at the Independent Living show. We were launching just such a range, the Osprey. **R Bramley**
Aidservice, Wigan
Tel: 01257 425538

Charity begins at home

Two articles "Still caring after 20 years" and "Double jeopardy" (*DN*, November) refer to the fact that on attaining national retirement age, disabled people are automatically placed on retirement pension without thought for the individual's disability.

I sympathise wholeheartedly with the two case histories because in 1998, after being registered disabled and not having worked for 15 years, my invalidity benefit ceased and industrial injury benefit was cut by £30.49. In total I was £57.68 per week worse off because the DSS considered I was of retirement age.

Legislation moved the goalposts over the years and the benefit I had expected for life ceased without warning. Other legislation changes increased my outgoings by £40 a week, so my disposable income effectively dropped by the greater part of £100 a week.

The question has to be asked: why should the elderly be penalised when there are people coming into the country, never having contributed to the fund, apparently receiving far more help than we who have lived and worked here all our lives?

I have to say, and I know I speak for millions of others who are too scared of reprisals to speak out, charity begins at home. It is about time governments of all persuasions stopped foreign aid until such times as the welfare of the people in this country was assured.

Joseph G Dowse
Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire

Graeae not so inclusive

Graeae are a professional disabled company, but some reviews of their work have, in many disabled people's views, been a bit "flexible." Unless a company gets good, fair criticism, it will not improve.

A review of *The Fall of the House of Usher*, for example, mentioned that the script was difficult but then focused on how atmospheric the production was. Many disabled people and some experienced able-bodied theatre practitioners said the production was incoherent, the actors didn't communicate with themselves let alone the audience, and they felt this was

a bold effort but Graeae had over-reached themselves.

On a separate issue, Graeae claim to be a fully inclusive theatre company – they are not. They frequently employ in workshops and other capacities the same few people without advertising.

Disabled people want all disabled arts to be open, accountable and fair so that we can progress, become more professional and share experiences. **David James**
London SW7
This letter does not refer to the review of The Changeling in DN November – Editor.

AdaptaChair

THE COMPLETE WHEELCHAIR SOLUTION



The 'Drive From' Wheelchair and Tie Down
Successfully Crash Tested to give the ultimate
comfort and safety for your total independence.

01769 573197
www.adaptachair.co.uk

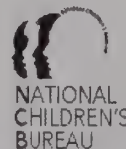
Getting in on the Act: promoting access and inclusion in services for disabled children

Monday, 10 December 2001, London WC1H
& Tuesday, 26 February 2002, York

Recent developments in legislation have resulted in changes to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the SEN and Disability Act 2001, the SEN code practice, and the National Service Framework, which have an impact on services for disabled children.

The Council for Disabled Children and the National Children's Bureau (NCB) have organised two one-day conferences for children's services providers, that will focus on the implications for these services.

For full conference programme and a booking form, call NCB
Conferences on 020 7843 6040/42,
or e-mail conferences@ncb.org.uk
Book early to avoid disappointment!



PC pulse

by Dan Batten

As clear as mud?

A new Welsh language guide provides some curious insights on acceptable words to describe disabled people. The Welsh word "mud" (pronounced meed) can be used to describe someone without speech. But mention "clefyd siwygr" (literally meaning "sugar disease") to someone who has diabetes and your head will be on the un-PC chopping block. I'm glad PC isn't just an eccentric English language trait.

Cheers to the foot soldier

When ordering a picture of a barman with restricted growth from *The Sun*, *DN* was told that we could use it if we showed him "in a positive light". It's good to know that one of Murdoch's army, who published said pic under the headline "I'll have a short barman" is clued up.

***On health-related benefits?
There's a New Deal for you.***

■ We are looking for people on health-related benefits who are looking for work.

■ We can put you in touch with a specially appointed Job Broker, who'll discuss the best job options to suit you.

■ At the same time we can help you prepare for interviews and support you when you start work.

■ For more information about New Deal for Disabled People, call free on 0800 137 177. Lines are open from 7am to 11pm. Textphone users call 0800 435 550. Or visit www.newdeal.gov.uk

new deal 

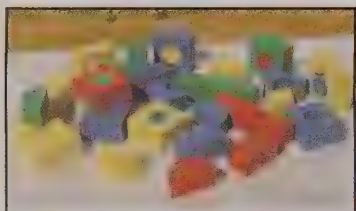
Present and

Is there a budding so young carpenter in your midst? Why not encourage that skill with a junior carpenter tool set from Hamleys. The set contains 13 pieces, including screwdrivers, retractable tape measure, hammer and a chisel, which come in a nifty three wing carry and storage case. The



kit comes with wood from managed forests, so tomorrow's little builders can learn to help the environment as well. £19.99. Hamleys customer services, tel: 020 7479 7373, www.hamleys.co.uk

Still on the building front, a fun set of tiles or building blocks from Caring Touch will



get younger minds working. The ABC tile set, available in upper and lower case letters and made from soft, dense foam, features interlocking floor tiles with drop in letter shapes, ideal for making a mat to crawl on or a house to hide in! The tiles are also washable, which could be useful if that pretend tea party gets a bit vicious. Sets cost £22 plus p&p, with add-on pieces costing £10 plus p&p. Tel: 020 8467 7979 or visit www.caringtouch.co.uk

With the books, and now the film, being so popular, kids young and old will be screaming for something new connected with Harry Potter. Our old favourites Lego have a new range to keep all young wizards happy, including a Hogwarts Castle and a classroom that looks just like master P's. You won't have any trouble finding these in the shops, unless they sell out. From £8.99. Order online at www.amazon.co.uk

or visit www.lego.co.uk If Christmas involves driving over to relatives' houses, why not have a laugh on the way with a BBC comedy tape collection? Just out is another "Bona" volume



of radio classic *Round the Horne*, featuring the risqué ramblings of Julian and Sandy among others. If that's not for you, "Don't panic", as those bumbling soldiers from *Dad's Army* also have their own 12 episodes set of war time tomfoolery. Both six cassette packs cost £22.50. Available from all book shops, the BBC listener enquiry line, tel: 020 8433 2236 or visit www.bbcbookshop.com

Ever fancied wearing that coat you saw David Beckham wearing the other week, or fancy a game of 501 on the talking dart-board that lives in the *Friends* apartment? Then get in touch with the people at As Seen on Screen.

They have a wide range of goodies that is either identical to the stuff you see on tv or the stars, or so close to it that you'd never notice the difference.

Tel: 01494 790 850 or visit www.asseenonscreen.com

Many drivers welcome a decent road map, especially if their current one is out of date and has the pages falling out. Douglas Campbell recommends the AA Big Road Atlas 2002 (ISBN 0-7495-2968-7) with a scale of 3 miles to the inch and spiral binding for easy use. The price is around £9.99 and it is available in lots of places. You can order it direct for just £10.49 including delivery by telephoning the AA on 01256 491524, or see their website www.theaa.com and click on "Buy - Books".

How about a gift pack RAC membership at £45? These come packed with a free toolbox or road atlas. To order telephone 0800 085 7239. RAC also have a travel case to hold

12 CDs at £12.99 and a Mini Maglite torch at £17.99.

They charge £3.50 for delivery.

A gift of membership of The Disabled Drivers' Association (tel: 0870 770 3333) or The Disabled Drivers' Motor Club (tel: 01832 734724)

will be a welcome gift for many disabled people. In either case the cost is just £10 for a year – or how about life membership?

If you cannot afford a new car

perhaps a classic red Mini or a Morris Traveller at just £9.99 would be welcome. These die-cast 1:43 scale models are available from Past Times, who have shops around the country. For details and mail order tel: 01993 770 440 or surf to www.past-times.com Delivery costs £2.99.

When planning his journeys, Douglas Campbell uses Microsoft Europe 2002 on his pc. This excellent software allows route planning all over Europe. In the UK it can actually pinpoint the exact location of an address. Do make sure you get the 2002 edition as the earlier one is still on sale. Prices vary, but Dabs currently have it advertised at £48.17. Dabs charge £2.95 for delivery (free for larger orders, more if you order by phone rather than on the internet). They are at www.dabs.com or telephone 0870 429 3120.

DN subscriptions

New hotline: 01454 642444





Quicker, Easier Way to Subscribe!

Subscribing to DN couldn't be easier. Simply fill out the form here and send with your payment to our FREEPOST address below. And to make paying easy for you, we now accept Switch, along with cheques, postal orders or credit cards.


If you receive any of the means-tested benefits listed below, you are entitled to a subscription to DN for FREE – just send us proof of your benefit entitlement.

Don't forget, if you call our new hotline you can pay immediately by Switch or Credit Card.

DN12/01

☐ 
☐ 
☐ 
☐ 

I/We enclose a cheque or postal order for £ which includes a donation of £
 I authorise you to charge my VISA ☐ ACCESS ☐ SWITCH ☐
 Card No.: Issue No. (Switch only) Valid from: Expiry date:
 Signature Date:
 Cheques payable to Disability Now. Send to address below.

Those on means-tested benefits		FREE	
Individual at home address	1 year	£18	<input type="radio"/>
	2 years	£35	<input type="radio"/>
Professional/organisation	1 year	£28	<input type="radio"/>
	2 years	£53	<input type="radio"/>
Europe	1 year	£33	<input type="radio"/>
Rest of world	1 year	£35	<input type="radio"/>

income support, housing benefit, council tax exemption, disabled person's tax credit, job seeker's allowance (please include proof of entitlement – documentation showing name of claimant and benefit type) Multiple copy rates available on request

Disability Now Subscriptions, FREEPOST LON18316, Patchway, Bristol BS32 0ZZ



correct

The best way to perfect driving skills is to join the Institute of Advanced Motorists. They welcome all drivers and make disabled people very welcome. Membership through their "Skills for Life" package costs just £75 (£10 less for drivers under 25) and would make a super present. For details surf to www.iam.org.uk or tel: 020 8994 4403.

Do you know someone who's always busy bashing away at their laptop, but equally busy bashing their mouse in frustration? Make those squeaky moments a thing of the past with a Magic Touch screen. Touch the part of the screen where you want your cursor with a finger or a soft tipped pointer and watch it magically appear. The screens will fit a 14in laptop screen and will run Windows, Macintosh or Linux operating systems. Screens for home pc monitors are also available. From £199 excluding VAT from Interactive Ideas, tel: 020 8805 1000 or visit www.interactiveideas.com

Woods of Windsor have some classy items to make you smell your sweetest. For her this includes a gift box of eight assorted fine soaps (£14.95) and a range of sprays and oils scented with lemon and lime. For him there is the gentleman's first class travel bag (£13.95), containing soaps, aftershave, shampoo and bath gel. Tel: 01753 868125 or visit www.woodsowindsor.co.uk

Also, don't forget to give our animal friends a little treat. If your beloved pet could do with smelling a bit sweeter sometimes, Anne Davies has found the perfect solution from Norfolk Lavender in the form of a pet shampoo



and conditioner to get rid of those pooch fuelled pongs. If all that cleaning gets their coats in knots, try restoring them to their pristine condition with some detangling spray. £5.95 each. Tel: 01485 570384 or visit www.norfolk-lavender.co.uk

We all get a bit breathless when we're out and about, but for some people a bit more than a quick sit down might help. So why not try taking an Opur pure oxygen bottle on your travels? This very trendy looking and compact container contains 8 litres of pure oxygen and weighs just 160 grammes. £11.95 from Paramount Zone, tel: 0870 745 4797 or visit www.paramountzone.com



The Wicker Pig Co have made it easier to send a card to a blind or visually impaired friend that they can read themselves. Their new "Touch" range of cards feature raised tactile designs with large print and/or Braille greetings. Individual cards cost £1.50, or you can buy selection packs or customized ones for different occasions. Tel: 01603 861239, fax: 01603 866595.

Have you seen the ideal present on the highstreet for someone but thought "I must be able to buy it for less". Have a look at shopsmart uk's website and you'll be able to find the cheapest price throughout the country for anything from a Dyson vacuum cleaner to a case of your favourite Christmas tippie. As well as paying less, you can also have your purchase delivered and avoid all the pre-Christmas crush. Visit www.uk.shopsmart.com

If you're stuck trying to find a decent gift for that awkward

customer take a look at the Present Finder. You should locate something for everyone from categories including Stropky Teenage Boys and Difficult Dads. For that awkward dad, ideas include a golf driving net and peg set (£34.95) and, for that very particular gardener, a packet of Verdigris plant tags (£6.75 for a packet of 15), ideal for reminding yourself of the Roman names for your blooms. Visit www.edirectory.co.uk/presentfinder

While you're sitting watching Star Wars part 28

why not have a nice cuppa to go along with it. Anne Davies recommends one of the choice brews on offer from Jackson of Piccadilly, including something from their themed London Range, or one of their regional tea caddy selections.

Along with that tea, you'll need something to put it in. Anne has also spotted a selection of fun mugs from Whittards, which include slogans such as "I am a genius" and "I must not chase the girls!" £8 from Whittards branches.



Don't just take our word for it

"TRY BEFORE YOU BUY"

For the first time ever...

...you are now able to try a fully operational stairlift at your own home, packed neatly into one of our fleet of VW Golfs based around the UK, ready for you to 'try before you buy'. (*Patent Pending)

You can experience the 'smooth start-smooth stop' operation, easy-to-use joystick controls and ultra-slim design on your doorstep.

ACORN STAIRLIFTS

To find out more information Call NOW
ask for the 'try before you buy' card
0800 19 19 19
Application No. 0102655

GIVE YOUR LIFE A LIFT



'Tis the season to be reading...

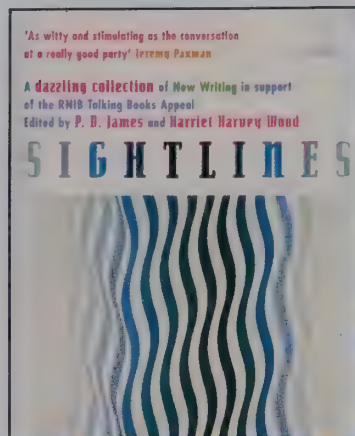
You're tired of turkey, you're bored with the box and you've seen enough of the relatives... It's time to put your feet up and get stuck into a good book. And as Laura Strong finds out, this year, there's plenty of choice

Christmas is coming and the books are getting fat... and there are plenty of great gift buys this year.

Looking for a present that will help a disability charity as well as provide a good read? Try *Sightlines* (right, £7.99), a collection of new writing by well-known authors ranging from Louis de Bernières and Nina Bawden to Joanna Trollope and Fay Weldon. Money raised from sales of the book will go towards the Royal National Institute for the Blind's *Talking Books* appeal.

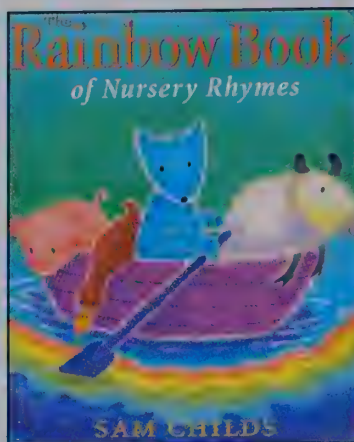
If you're looking for a nursery rhyme collection suitable for children with a visual impairment or learning difficulty, go for Sam Childs' new *Rainbow Book of Nursery Rhymes* (above right, £19.99), which is as colourful as its sounds. The pictures are bright, the text is big and bold and there are fun classics like Goosey Goosey Gander and Wee Willie Winkie.

A bread machine is great if you like making your own



loaves but your hands aren't up to the kneading. This Christmas there's an excellent new bread machine recipe book to tickle all tastebuds, *The Complete Bread Machine Cookbook* by Sonia Allison (above right, £16.99). The collection has 100 adventurous recipes, including Cajun spiced bread, brioche and bronzed sesame bread.

Penelope Bennett's *Window-Box Allotment - A Beginner's Guide to Container Gardening* (£9.99) is the ideal gift for green-fingered friends who can no longer manage full-scale



gardening and want to get the most out of their pots. Bennett has a small rooftop garden in London and grows everything from potatoes and lettuce to raspberries and tomatoes. This compact book looks lovely, is beautifully written and includes month-by-month tips, recipes and anecdotes.

There are plenty of new audio books out - perfect for friends and relatives with visual impairments or if you just fancy listening to something as you do your Christmas preparations around the house.



Fellowship of the Ring, from BBC Worldwide's Spoken Word range, will get you in Tolkien mode ready for the new film of *The Lord of the Rings* (£16.99).

For children and young teenagers, try *Vicky Angel* by Jacqueline Wilson (£10.99), in which Jade's dead friend comes back to haunt, or Philip Pullman's *Ruby in the Smoke* (£14.99), a thriller set in the murky streets and opium dens of Victorian London - just right for dark Christmas nights. Both are from BBC

Worldwide's Cover2Cover range.

For a really magic present, splash out on the handsome *Harry Potter Tin* (below, £69.99), which contains Stephen Fry's readings of all three *Harry Potter* novels, also from the BBC Cover2Cover range.

All BBC cassettes and other gifts are available from the BBC website - you can even get Auntie to wrap your presents for you if you want.

So this year, head to the bookstore or log onto the web and you'll have Christmas all boxed off in no time. BBC shop: www.bbcshop.com Waterstones: www.amazon.co.uk/waterstones



Creating new horizons with Invatravel



Invatravel are agents for superior **Stepless** portable telescopic alloy wheelchair ramps from £195.00.

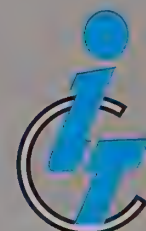
As a long established company, Invatravel has years of experience providing for the needs of people with disabilities.

Caravelle

- Various access options available
- Rear access, ramp or lift, including lowering suspension
- Prices from **£17,950** on the road
- Conversions for independent drivers
- Underfloor ramps or hydraulic side lifts
- 6-way drivers seat, remote door and lift operation

Caddy

- Power steering and driver's airbag
- Tinted glass, electric windows and door mirrors
- Remote central locking
- 1.6 petrol or 1.9 SDI or TDI diesel engines
- Lowered floor for rear ramp access
- Seats up to four plus wheelchair passenger
- Prices from **£13,595** 'S' model to **£14,490** 'SE' model
- 'SE' model includes air-conditioning and metallic paint



INVATRAVEL
CONVERSIONS LTD

Established 1983

97 Lytham Road,
Southport,
Merseyside PR9 9UG

Telephone: 01704 506608

Fax: 01704 506607

E-mail: sales@invatravel.com

www.invatravel.com

www.scoot.co.uk/invatravel_conversions

Caddy now on contract hire scheme



Commercial Vehicles

Recognised Converter

Used converted caravelles in stock - call us for details

Season's eatings

If traditional Christmas fare sounds less than thrilling, Anne Davies has some suggestions and recipes to liven up the spirit

This year, there will be more organic, free-range and corn fed turkey and chicken in the shops than ever,

But not all of us want a huge bird to cook, so I've found a few alternatives such as Tesco's Easy to Carve turkey joint, garnished with bacon rashers, orange slices and bay leaves (right, £24.19). For something smaller, try the Stuffed Butterfly turkey breast, rolled out and stuffed with cranberry and chestnut stuffing (£6.99).

Marks & Spencer have similar offerings, including a 1.5 kg turkey breast joint (£19.99), and a delicious corn fed chicken (£3.45). For a change, try the boned and stuffed chicken from Sainsbury's which weighs in at approximately £3.99 per kg.

Marks & Spencer cater for vegetarians with the Vegetarian Filo Strudel (above right, £4.99). If you like fish, there's the Salmon En Crouete and Fruit Glazed Roast Salmon, both £14.99 from Sainsbury's.

Traditional Christmas puddings, including organic vegetarian, are widely available. The new Oxfam Fair Trading Honeymead Festive



Pudding is delicious, and can be found in Oxfam shops.

Also worth a try is Matthew Walker's Maple and Pecan pudding and Mulled Wine Pudding available from various high-street stores.

A cold desert makes a nice alternative. Try Marks & Spencer's Orange and Cranberry Pannacutte Dessert (£7.99), or Tesco's Nougat Meringue Dessert, with layers of fresh cream topped with red berries (£4.99). There's also Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Cranberry Cheesecake (£3.99).

If you're a chocoholic, there are some wickedly rich puds about. Try Tesco's Finest Chocolate Russe at £4.99 or Marks and Spencer's Indulgent Chocolate Brownie



Dessert at £3.59.

For something different from traditional Christmas iced cake, try Walkers Traditional Recipe Scotch Bun, a spicy fruit and nut mixture with a crispy pastry shell. German stollen, is a rich fruit loaf with marzipan centre. Baklsen and Tesco (below) have stollen topped with toasted almonds.



Top of the plonks

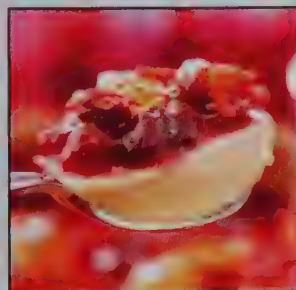
There are plenty of choices in the middle price range.

- ✓ Sainsbury's has a sparkling Chardonnay (£5.99)
- ✓ Tesco offers a Chilean dry fruity white (around £4) and an assortment of organic wines, including Red Acava (£4.99, left)
- ✓ Asda's wide range includes Argentinean Barkera, a fruity red (£4.99), and Argentinean Torrontes, a refreshing dry white (£4.99)
- ✓ Marks and Spencer has a great variety, including organic sparkling Cava Brut (£5.99)
- ✓ For those who prefer non-alcoholic drinks, Belvoir have a range of organic sparkling drinks, including Elderflower, lemonade and ginger beer: www.belvoircordials.co.uk



Mince your own pies

Sheets of short crust pastry are widely available, so make your own mince pie in a large Swiss roll tin. Place sheet of pastry on a greased tin. Add a jar of mincemeat and spread over pastry. Cover with another sheet of pastry and make as instructed on the packet. Cut into slices to serve. Epicure and Robertson's have luxury mincemeat with added brandy and Meridian has a mincemeat with no added sugar that is suitable for vegetarians. As an alternative, use lemon curd as a filling.



Stock up

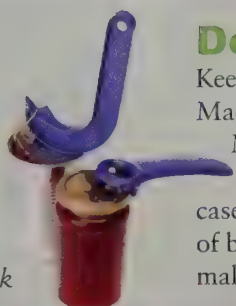
Keep a box of Rombout individual filter coffee in the cupboard. There are ten in a pack and different strengths are available.

TIP 1

Unscrew

There's an opener that breaks the vacuum seal on jars. It comes with a can opener. £5.50, From Cucina Direct: www.cucinadirect.co.uk

TIP 2



Dough

Keep some Hovis MacDougall Bread Mixes in the cupboard – in case you run out of bread. They make great pizza bases too.

TIP 3

Stollen ice cream cake

Ingredients (for eight)

2 tubs (500 gm each) vanilla ice cream. You must have first rate ice cream. All the major supermarkets have their own top grade vanilla flavours.

100 gm mixed glacé fruit, chopped

About 12 slices of good quality stollen, 1 cm thick

About 4 tbs Amaretto liqueur

1.2 litre (2 pt) loaf tin lined with cling film (make sure there's enough to flap over the top)

Method

1. Take ice cream from freezer and put into fridge to soften. When soft, put contents of both tubs into a large clean bowl and stir in fruit with metal spoon. Keep refrigerated.
2. Line the bottom of tin with a third of the stollen and sprinkle with Amaretto. Spoon in half the ice cream and spread in a thick layer.
3. Put another layer of stollen on top of the ice cream. Sprinkle with Amaretto. Repeat again with ice cream and a final cover of stollen. Sprinkle with Amaretto.
4. Flap the cling film over the top of the cake and press down.
5. Freeze for at least 4 hours or until firm. To serve, tip cake out of tin, remove cling film and slice with large knife dipped in hot water. Can be served with bottled apricots in alcohol.

Home-made ice cream with mango purée

Ingredients

1 or 3 large, very ripe mangoes (make sure they're ripe)

100 ml Greek plain yoghurt

100 ml double cream

75 gm caster sugar

Method

1. Mix the ice cream ingredients well in a bowl. Then put mixture in a plastic box and freeze until nearly frozen.
2. In the meantime, cut the mangoes, remove the stones, and scoop the flesh from the skin. Put into a food processor to make a smooth purée.
3. Take the ice cream from freezer. Tip into a bowl and beat well. Add mango purée and stir well. Pack into a plastic container and freeze.

reproduced by kind permission of Michelle Berriedale Johnson

Freedom Re-designed...



...with PowerTrike

Just add the PowerTrike™ to almost any wheelchair and it turns into an exciting and thrilling powered trike. PowerTrike™ puts the fun back into nipping to the shops, popping down the gym or you can go cruising in the countryside. "Someone you know needs one".

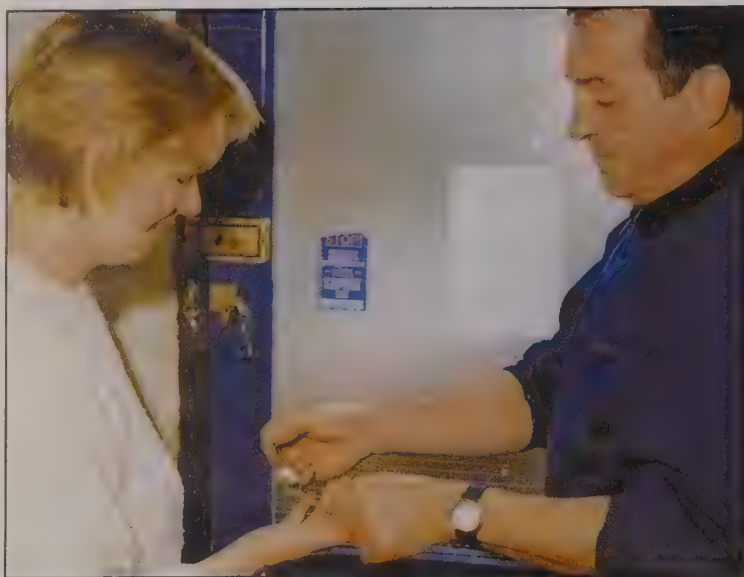
Call us now for a free information pack on 01763 244 288

T. +44 (0) 1763 244 288 F. +44 (0) 1763 244 882
W. www.pdqmobility.com E. info@pdqmobility.com
The Barn 27 Kneesworth Street Royston Herts SG8 5AB



...keep your home safe

An Englishman's home is his castle, but how to make it more secure? Rod Hermeston investigates



Safety first: Michelle Cannell gets the keys to her newly secured home

Being burgled is a horrible experience and the added fear of not being able to defend yourself if you are disabled can make it doubly frightening.

Wheelchair user Angela Drane, 45, who lives in Winyates had a previous home broken into four times. "The first time I was broken into I was in bed asleep and a man came into my bedroom and disturbed me," she says. "I decided to make as much noise as I could and he ran out of the property."

Despite having a strong personality and being an executive trustee of Scope, Angela says: "The feeling of security is totally gone and it will never come back."

She was desperate to move. The new estate where she lives was built with security features like security lighting and locks for windows and doors.

But how can you make your home secure if you

stay where you are?

If you want good advice, it is worth talking to a crime prevention officer or crime reduction officer through your local police station. They should know about any local schemes which might provide financial help to fit security equipment.

A basic thing to do before spending any money is to make sure windows and doors are locked and to check the identity of callers before letting them in.

Here are a few tips:

- The strongest type of door is a hardwood door.
- Doors can be fitted with a five lever mortice deadlock, which cannot be opened from inside the house without a key. Make sure the lock meets British Standard BS3621. And obviously a door viewer will let you know who is outside before you open the door and a door chain will keep the door from opening fully.

- You should fit key locks to all accessible windows.
- If you fit PVCu or metal framed doors or windows make sure that they come with good fitted locks and a chain as it can be expensive to add these later.
- Make sure you can still escape if there is a fire. Fit smoke detectors.
- Fitting a light outside the house can ensure you will see who is at the door at night time, and deters thieves.
- It is a good idea to make people think you are in even if you are out. Timer switches will turn on lights and the tv in your absence.
- Many burglar alarms are on the market, from cheaper DIY alarms to others costing hundreds of pounds. Professionally installed alarms should meet BS 4737 and DIY alarms should meet BS6707.

Ian Foulkes, crime reduction officer in the Stoke-on-Trent division, Staffordshire Police, says: "Nothing can be guaranteed, but a house with good door and window locks and an alarm on is much less likely to be burgled than a house with no security."

"DIY stores will stock most things that people could use to increase their security and most things are now reasonably priced."

If you are not up to DIY, it is still worth seeing if there are any schemes which help disabled people locally.

Michelle Cannell, 31, of Thetford, who has cerebral palsy, approached a local

Securing your home – selected products

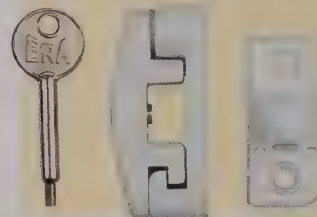
Here are a few home security products on the market, intended as examples only.



Homebase sell a wide range of home security equipment. The Avocet 2½ in BS3621 5 Lever Deadlock, costs £15.99. The Micromark Black & White CCTV Kit (left) is a television camera which can allow you to see on TV who is outside, for £29.99. And the Micromark EasyFit Single Zone Intruder Alarm costs £29.99.

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People sells a Contact Mat, which can alert deaf people to intruders stepping on it by a pager or bed shaker, costing £248.95 altogether. Tel: 01733 232607, textphone: 01733 238020.

SRS sell the SRS Duplex Apartment Station, an intercom and electronic door release system. £228.40 plus VAT. Tel: 08700 101001



B&Q sell a wide range of home security products. An ERA swing lock for windows (left), costs £5.48. Their Timer 24 Hour Segment, time switch (above) also costs £5.78.

organisation called Partners Against Crime Taskforce which put a chain and a five lever mortice lock on her door and locks on her windows for free because she is on benefits. She says: "I was worried about being burgled because I am on the ground floor and I have always lived on my own so I have got to be secure. It has made me feel a lot more safe."

Of course many disabled people will struggle with standard equipment. The Disabled Living Foundation provides information on a whole range of electronic equipment such as intercoms, which allow you to speak to

someone outside, entry controls, which do not require keys, and video entry systems.

Don't forget, if neighbours know you are looking out for them, they will look out for you.

Mark Weatherall, 36, of Stoke, is secretary to his local neighbourhood watch scheme. He fitted a burglar alarm after his first burglary, but says that the neighbourhood watch "gives everyone a greater sense of security and it helps with the local community spirit."

Burglars like their crimes to be as easy as possible. The more difficult you make it, the less likely you are to suffer heartache and the safer you will feel.

Keep Mobile with CYCLONE

Phone 0700 CYCLONE
(2925663)

www.cyclone-mf.co.uk

Passive Exercise Equipment
to improve Tone and Circulation for:-
Multiple Sclerosis
Spinally Injured
Cerebral Palsy
Spina Bifida
And other Disabilities

Wheelchairs for:-
Sport and Everyday use
Fitness Equipment

Multi-Gyms
Handcycles

Cyclone Mobility and Fitness are the Importers for a number of different European and American Manufacturers of quality of life improving machines. These include Wheelchair specific gym machines, handcycles, Wheelchairs, All terrain vehicles and Passive therapy machines.

Cyclone, FREEPOST NWW 3068, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, L66 1BR.

I would like further information on:-

Passive Exercise Machines
Multi Gyms for Wheelchairs
Wheelchairs for Everyday
Wheelchairs for Sport
Handcycling Recreationally
Handcycling Competitively
Off Road Disabled Vehicles

☐ **Fill in This Form NOW!**

☐ **Name**

☐ **Address**

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Tel No.

DN12/01

The Association of British Insurers website has a "beat the burglars" section at www.abi.org.uk

B & Q provide leaflets, *Making Your Home Safe and Secure* and *Fitting a Door Lock*

The British Security Industry Association website, www.bsia.co.uk, has product information.

The Disabled Living Foundation lists lots of security equipment. Tel: 0207 2896111.

The Home Office leaflet *Your Practical Guide to Crime Prevention* is available from local crime prevention officers and on 0870 241 4680.

The Metropolitan Police have a general safety guide for people with learning disabilities, *Stay Safe: An Easy Guide*. Free from London police.

Victim Support give advice to those who have been burgled and those who want to avoid being burgled. Tel: helpline 0845 3030900

TV



BC2's *Living With Cancer* series followed several young people trying to get on with their lives as best they could whilst the Sword of Damocles dangled overhead. It was compulsive viewing.

ITV1's one-off drama *My Beautiful Son* was based on reality and also made compelling television. Julie Walters was fabulous as the middle aged woman who'd given up her baby for adoption, only to have him return from America 40 years later with leukaemia, looking for a suitable bone marrow donor. They say life imitates art – well they both made me cry.

Whatever you might think about CS's output, they do come up with some good films. *Sleep, Baby, Sleep* was a ripping yarn about a woman with Attention Deficit Disorder whose baby goes missing. Under police suspicion herself, heroine Sylvie takes the law into her own hands and gets her baby back. Good on yer, Sylvie.

C4's *Fat Bloke* (part of the Body Image season) didn't tell me anything I didn't already know but gave us an amusing insight into "male bonding" at a men-only slimming club in Liverpool.

Meanwhile *Horizon* on BBC2 gave an insight into human cloning which set the tone with an ancient clip from *Dr Who*. Let's hope this spooky stuff stays in the realm of science fiction where it belongs.

Nice to see *Football Focus* on BBC1 featuring a report by Tony Garret about Charlton Athletic Disabled Supporters' Club with their state-of-the-art-accessible coach and Derby County's excellent facilities. Other wealthy football clubs please take note.

Is cannabis the wonder drug of the 21st century? Not according to Susan Greenfield, Professor of Pharmacology, who told *Panorama* on BBC1: "You might literally be blowing your mind". Having undergone a clinical trial, one woman with MS insisted: "Please let me take the cannabis and let me feel normal". Is that too much to ask, I wonder?

Jane Shepherd

Film



Departing from his patented on-screen persona of the smart-alec "raving madman", Jack Nicholson attempts to avenge a death in *The Pledge*.

Nicholson plays soon-to-be retired sheriff Jerry Black. While enjoying a surprise leaving party, Black notices three colleagues leave the party. He duly follows and discovers them discussing the murder of a young girl in the mountains, with elements at the scene indicating the work of a serial child killer. Six hours from retirement, Black makes a pledge with the parents to find their daughter's killer.

The first suspect is Toby, a hulking native American with a "mental handicap" who looks like Mungo from *Blazing Saddles*. After a less-than-scrupulous interrogation, Toby confesses, but then blows his head off in a holding cell. The police close their file, happy their man is dead.

But Jack isn't happy. Now

obsessed with the case, he buys a gas station in the mountains to get near to the murderer, whose identity is never revealed. He also forms a relationship with local woman Lori and her young daughter Chrissy, who resembles the murder victim. While the relationship begins well, Jerry's obsession with finding the murderer leads him on a downward spiral.

With Benicio Del Toro playing Toby, you'd expect a performance with depth, but his grunting and sniffing portrayal is so far off the mark you have to wonder if he did any research into learning disability. Far better is Nicholson's obsessive Jerry, who puts young Chrissy in a potentially deadly situation to fulfil his "pledge", and ends up having (by his standards) a "quiet breakdown".

Even with an overlong feel and an appalling take on learning disability, this film is brooding, gripping and even refreshing, with no clean cut ending. Best defined as interesting, rather than entertaining.

Dan Batten

Video



With a title like *Children First* and Scope's name on the sleeve, you'd expect a video to feature prominently the faces and voices of children with cerebral palsy. While this video shows the faces, the voices have been largely forgotten.

Having cp, I have undergone the trials and frustrations these kids face, so it was good to see them in mainstream education.

But I was left wondering what the film was trying to tell me. For anyone with the slightest common sense, the point that a child with cp is "to all intents and purposes one of the class" is as obvious as the nose on your face.

The film's major fault is that it emphasises how little disabled Johnny is as good as non-disabled Johnny on numerous occasions, and little else.

The greatest shame is that the kids hardly speak. Parents and professionals talk for their offspring in situations that look rehearsed.

For me, this video is a wasted opportunity, as it seems to be aimed at parents without including the voice of the kids it wants to help.

Dan Batten

★★★★ excellent,

★★★★ very good,

★★★ good,

★★ OK,

★ poor



The winner of the 2000 contest: *Untitled* by Joseph Fenton

Sense Scotland are inviting entries to the fifth Helen Keller Arts Award.

The award, launched on 12 November, is held every two years and given for the most inspiring piece of art that deals with deafblindness. The winner receives a prize of £1,000.

A wide range of works are expected, with suggested formats including braille, audio tape and sculpture.

For more information contact Sense Scotland, tel: 0141 564 2444, e-mail: info@helenkelleraward.com or visit www.helenkelleraward.com. Entries must be submitted by 31 January 2002.

Get in the picture



Enter the **2002 Freedom in Focus contest**, and you could take home a new camera

Creating opportunities with disabled people
LEONARD CHESHIRE



Great prizes!

- All four winners will receive a digital camera, with runners-up having a standard 35mm camera.
- 18-and-over winners will also receive one week half-board at Park House Hotel, Sandringham (Princess Diana's childhood home) for themselves and a partner/ friend
- Under 18s will have a trip on the London Eye with professional photographer Graham Bool immediately after the reception, when they can try out their new cameras.

If you like snapping landscapes or portraits, this could be your year to win the Freedom in Focus 2002 photography competition.

Organised by *Disability Now* and Leonard Cheshire, the competition is open to all amateur disabled photographers. The two categories this year will be Landscape (holiday shots, buildings, cities, etc) and Portraits

(friends, family, pets, etc). The pictures can have a disability theme but this is not compulsory, and you can enter up to five of them.

Each category will have a winner and a runner-up in two age groups, under 18 and 18 and over. Winners will receive exciting prizes and attend a party at the House of Lords in June.

Judges for this year's competition are Lara Masters

(actress, writer and co-presenter of *That's Esther*), Graham Bool (last year's winner and a professional photographer) and Chris Cheesman (news editor of *Amateur Photographer*).

Closing date for entries is 29 April 2002. You will find an application form and the full competition rules inserted into this issue of *Disability Now*.



"SHOW STOPPER"



MOBILITY ROADSHOW CROWTHORNE 15-17 JUNE 2001



ACCESSIBLE DOBLO "BEST IN CLASS"



VOTED BY FAR THE MOST AFFORDABLE SUITABLE SOLUTION FOR WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTATION - THIS COMPACT ADAPTED MPV IS AVAILABLE ON THE ROAD FROM £11,650



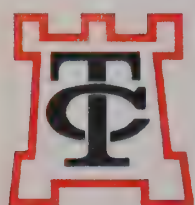
ACCESSIBLE SHARAN
ON THE ROAD FROM £18,950



ACCESSIBLE PREVIA
ON THE ROAD FROM £23,500

ALL OUR ADAPTATIONS AND DESIGNS ARE PATENT PROTECTED AND CONSTRUCTED USING STAINLESS STEEL

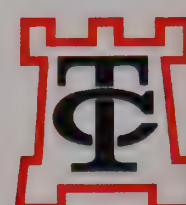
TELEPHONE TO ARRANGE YOUR NO OBLIGATION TEST DRIVE



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

24 DIANA STREET NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE4 6BQ

TEL: 0191 226 0099 FAX: 0191 272 1313



VEHICLE CERTIFICATION AGENCY

APPROVED



APPROVED

'We try to be as positive as possible'

Although it's common for families to get together over the holidays, for the Garnett family, spending time together is a year-long commitment, Will Garnett writes

This Christmas will be a first for our family. Our eldest daughter Catherine, who graduated from Leeds University this summer, is teaching in China. She will be sorely missed by the rest of the family, in particular, by her younger sister Siobhan. And Catherine, on her own in a "small" Chinese city with a population of 6 million, will miss the excitement of Christmas too.

For Siobhan, Christmas will be an especially exciting time. She has Prader-Willi syndrome, a broad umbrella-term for a variety of conditions. Prader-Willi syndrome was only identified in the late fifties, and is a comparatively rare syndrome, characterised by poor muscle strength, slowness to walk and talk, and what the experts call a "patchy" mental development. Some parts of the brain seem to develop normally; others never reach their full potential. Perhaps the most significant feature of the syndrome is an inability to control eating, to know when to stop, to know when you've had enough.

Siobhan was born in 1986. In the early days, we learned from the small amounts of literature available that "your child will eat, sleep and dream food; you must put locks on all the cupboards, the fridge, the bin."

When you're out with your child, you need to make sure they don't pick anything that they think is food up from the street, that they don't rifle through dustbins, that they don't steal food from other diners, or from discarded plates if you go into restaurants."

But Siobhan has blossomed into a teenager who her brothers and sister adore, as do most people who meet her. She makes us all laugh.

Who could not love someone who, on a school trip to France, purchased as presents for home a tin of dog food and a tin of cat food? This, despite the fact that we have no pets. "But I might be going to places where there are cats and dogs," was her explanation.

And it's hard not to love someone who, as a five-year-old on a train, opened her conversation with a total stranger by asking: "What colour's your Hoover?"

Three months after

Siobhan's PWS was confirmed, so too was Therese's multiple sclerosis. Over the years her condition has steadily worsened so that now she can neither walk nor talk for any length of time. When she wants to blow her nose, or scratch a place that itches, or comb her hair, or hold someone, she can't. When she's hungry or thirsty, she cannot hold the necessary implements. And when she has a cold, and needs to clear her throat, she can't do that either.

And yet Therese has never once complained. She is more

leading "normal" lives. But that's not the hand that we've been given. The bond that brought us together and that gave us our family is still there. It always will be. So we just get on with our joint lives, and concentrate on doing the best for ourselves, our children, and anyone else who comes within our circle. We try to be as positive and patient as possible.

As a husband, father and carer, then, it is my responsibility to ensure that Christmas holidays are times of celebration, not times of

'The bond that brought us together and that gave us our family is still there. It always will be. So we just get on with our joint lives, and concentrate on doing the best for ourselves, our children, and anyone else who comes within our circle'

likely to apologise for the "trouble" she thinks she is causing, about how "problematic" our marriage has become. This is clearly nonsense, as I frequently tell her.

The MS causes problems, strains and exhaustion for both of us. There are plenty of times when I, or we, wish it would go away, that we could be "normal" people

extra stress. I have to say in all honesty that I prefer Boxing Day to 25 December. As a full-time teacher whose school term doesn't finish until 20 December, I find the final five days quite stressful.

Luckily we have a wonderful team of helpers from the charity Leonard Cheshire so, between the lot of us, we do manage to do all those things



Home for the holidays: The Garnett family, clockwise from bottom left, dad Will, Liam, Catherine, Ciaran, Siobhan and mum Therese.

that any family wants from Christmas.

So we will look forward to the holidays. Perhaps the Christmas dinner won't be quite perfect, and the presents may not be professionally wrapped.

But there will be love, and laughter, and Father Christmas will attempt one more time to sneak into Siobhan's bedroom

without waking her. And that's really what Christmas is all about, isn't it?

If you'd like to read more of Will's book 'What Colour's Your Hoover?', either contact your local bookseller quoting ISBN no 1-903016-47-9 or order direct from the publishers, Kent Valley Colour Printers, Kendal Office, LA9 6NZ (price £5.95 + £2 p&pp)

CAN YOUR POWERCHAIR DO THIS?

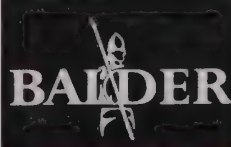
Experience the amazing Balder Finesse soon. Models to suit all ages. Variety of seating systems fitted



Call Today

01256 767181

Unit 24, Murrell Green Business Park
London Road, Hook RG27 9GR
Fax: 01256 768887



Access-Easy!



"TITAN"
THE
LIGHT-WEIGHT
RAMP RANGE

KOLLER Engineering Ltd
Safety Restraint Engineers

Tel: 01935 426695 e-mail: enquiries@koller.co.uk

Head Office: Koller Engineering Ltd, 5 Garrett Road,
Lynx Trading Estate, Yeovil, Somerset. BA20 2TJ





ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE CURTIS

Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

Ann Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the *Directory for Disabled People* and other guides.

Write to her at *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or e-mail your problem to editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



'I now know I am gay'

I have written to you several times and have always appreciated your encouragement and interest. I recently joined the Gay Club's Edinburgh branch and have just returned from a weekend in London with the Goslings Cycling and Swimming Group. This changed my life because I have fallen in love and now definitely know I am gay. I knew this as soon as I saw Ed coming to meet me at King's Cross.

Charles, Edinburgh

I am so happy for you and hope that there will be lots of visits between Edinburgh and London. I hope you will keep in touch. Other readers wishing to get in touch with disabled lesbians and gay men could contact Regard. Their aim is to challenge heterosexism and ableism, to end discrimination and to create a more inclusive society.

Bedwetting

My son is 13 years old and has cerebral palsy. Our problem is that while he is dry in the day, night time is horrendous. I've been trying for eight years to get him dry at night with no luck. He can do it – he was dry for three months, but that's all.

We tried a clinic and they said to tell him to be a big boy. But for a child with learning difficulties too, that's not much help.

Susan (e-mail)

I recommend you contact The Enuresis Resource and Information Centre (ERIC).

They provide advice and information to children, parents and professionals on nocturnal enuresis (bedwetting) and are always helpful. The centre can put you in touch with your nearest adviser and also provide opportunities for mutual support. You could also try alarms and a range of bedding protection.

Need a Life

Someone once said to me: "You have to be well off to be disabled". I am now disabled myself and so is my husband. I have seen the new Suzuki Life and it is just what I need.

However, it costs £20,995 and we cannot possibly afford this. We really need some advice.

Mrs F, Wythnshawe

I suggest you contact the Wrightington Mobility Centre where you will be able to go for an assessment and free information and advice about an appropriate vehicle and necessary additional equipment.

Assisted suicide

I have read with concern and interest about the right-to-die case of Diane Pretty.

Given that it is possible for anyone who is physically able

to choose to take their own life, it seems only reasonable that those who wish to end their lives but who are physically unable to undertake the act should be allowed to enlist another's willing help.

I would welcome other readers' views.

Anon (e-mail)

I hope readers will take up the opportunity. The issues surrounding assisted suicide or voluntary euthanasia are complex and always need discussing. Further information can be obtained from the Voluntary Euthanasia Society.

Orange or blue?

What is now recommended to signify accessible parking bays instead of the orange badge symbol?

Emma (e-mail)

The old orange badge has been replaced by a new European model blue badge that will guarantee British badge holders' privileges across the whole of the European Union.

I recommend that you contact the Association of Blue Badge Holders, previously known as the Association of Orange Badge Holders.

They will be happy to put you in touch with a local member to help with any parking problems or misuse of the badge.

Fed up and bored

I'm fed up with my life. It's so boring. But I'm not ready for big changes. I know you sometimes suggest we should be adventurous, but I would rather progress slowly. Have you any suggestions?

Margaret, Birmingham

It is good to try little changes and then you can proceed further if you want to.

I would like to pass on some suggestions I read in the *Polio Fellowship Bulletin* (PFB).

Try being more adventurous in the supermarket, buying things like speciality teas, exotic fruits and vegetables and unusual foods from around the world.

PFB suggested going to the library and trying a book at random. Or you could also try buying a magazine on an unusual topic you've never read before. You never know, you might find a whole new interest.



DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick gives disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, with a post-graduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.

Voluntary Euthanasia Society,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, London W8 5PG,
tel: 020 7937 7770.

National Association of Blue Badge Holders, Badger Rest, 18 Spruce Drive,
Brandon IP27 0UU, tel: 01842 812 459.

The Enuresis Resource and Information Centre, tel: 0117 960 3060.

Regard, Unit 2J, Leroy House,
43 Essex Road, London N1 3QP,
tel: 020 7738 8097 (7-9pm Tuesdays).
Website: www.regards.dircom.co.uk

Wrightington Mobility Centre,
Wrightington Hospital NHS Trust, Hall Lane,
Appley Bridge, Wigan WN6 9EP,
tel: 01257 256409.

CHARTWELL INSURANCE

DISABLED DRIVER INSURANCE BUREAU

Established over 35 years

Shown below are just some of the special facilities available

Motor insurance including adapted vehicles

Legal protection cover included with the option of including RAC cover for £49

Household buildings and contents cover

Travel insurance

Wheelchairs including scooters and powerchairs

Commercial insurance

For a competitive quotation, contact us on:

020 8958 0900

Visa, Mastercard and Switch cards are accepted
Chartwell House, 292-294 Hale Lane
Edgware, Middx HA8 8NP.

MEMBER



General Insurance
STANDARDS COUNCIL

Receiving Direct Payments? Thinking about applying for them?



We take the hassle out of employing care staff with our payroll management service

Calculating salary due
Issuing payslips
Managing Tax
National Insurance returns
Liaison with Inland Revenue

We offer a professional service wherever you live in the UK, and our competitive rates may be built into your Direct Payment allowance.

By using **Shaw-Direct**, you will be supporting a social firm which provides work and training for disabled people.

SHAW-DIRECT

Call 020 8997 5877

www.shopethic.com/shawdirect/

Please send me details of **Shaw-Direct's** payroll management service

Name

Address

Postcode Telephone

DN12/01

Shaw-Direct, 1c Carlyon Road, Alperton, Wembley, London HA0 1HH

LOOK WHAT SANTAS GOT ON HIS LIST FOR YOU THIS CHRISTMAS



NEW
RENAULT KANGOO

LET US GET YOU MOBILE
WITH ONE OF OUR TOP
QUALITY FIAT FIORINO
OR OTHER USED
VEHICLES...



NEW
CITROEN BERLINGO



MERCEDES
VITO 8
V CLASS



FORD COURIER

...and if you want
NEW you can't
do better than
Universal Mobility



FIAT SCUDO



VW CARAVELLE



VW TRANSPORTER

Don't think
about it
Ask about it..!



"A universal new way to enjoy your freedom
The new freedom range from universal."



*This is a trademark of Motability registered charity number 299745 used under licence

SALES HOTLINE: 0845 7413348

UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD. Unit 2, Royd Mill, Dyehouse Lane, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1LL
Tel: 01484 400795 * Fax: 01484 400796

NOW OPEN... Website: www.unimob.co.uk



no nonsense vehicle conversions

ACROSS

1. One of Santa Claus' other names (6,9)
8. Popular Christmas carol (4,2,1,6)
9. People like to do this under the mistletoe (4)
10. Animal associated with the star-sign Aries (3)
12. One of Santa Claus' reindeer (5)
15. What Vorderman sings on December 25th? (9,5)
19. Beasts of burden (4)
20. *Jack and the Beanstalk*, for example (9)
24. Beer brewed and stored in the traditional way (3)
26. Female bird (3)
27. Fit to be eaten (6)
28. And 23 Down. Quiet Christmas song? (6,5)
31. Ice-house (5)
32. Birth of Christ (8)
33. Wise Men, who brought presents for the baby Jesus (4)

DOWN

1. Gold and myrrh's partner (12)
2. The sleigh is Santa Claus' preferred choice of _____ (9)
3. Each of the long strips on which a sledge slides (6)
4. Basket of food and drink given as a Christmas present (6)
5. Sweetener used in coffee (5)
6. Mother of the baby Jesus (4)
7. King Wenceslas looked out on this saint's feast-day (7)
11. Nativity animal (3)
12. Cut up the turkey (5)
13. Jerusalem is its capital (6)
14. Tony Blair succeeded him as Labour Party leader (5)
16. Illness with feverish shivering (5)
17. It should be burned on the Christmas fire (3)
18. Outdoor function with a sale of goods (4)
21. They're a-milking in *The Twelve Days of Christmas* (5)
22. Assembly of people (7)
23. See 28 across
25. Compartment for one horse in a stable (5)
26. Christ was born during this king's reign (5)
29. Highest adult male singing-voice (4)
30. Night before Christmas (3)

CROSSWORD BY JIM MCLAREN
ILLUSTRATION BY VALERIE BARR
ANSWERS ON PAGE 39

CROSSWORD SPONSORED BY
Creating opportunities with disabled people
LEONARD CHESHIRE



Got a spare minute to rest among all of those holiday preparations? Then get that grey matter going with DN's Christmas cracker of a crossword.

Affordable, accessible cars

Quality new and used wheelchair access cars from

GM Coachwork Ltd

The Fiat Utah and Montana range of cars.

Quality seating for 5 plus generous, easy wheelchair access.

50mpg turbo diesels, air conditioning and full electric pack.

From £18,000 on the road.

The South West's best collection of quality used cars

Ford Courier automatic, '99 V, 1.3 petrol. 6,600 miles, pas, low floor conversion. £9,500

Mercedes Benz Vito 113 automatic, '98 S. 5 seats, wheelchair & ramp. £14,500

Mercedes Benz Vito 113 automatic, '98 S. 4 seats & wheelchair. Power seat, electric lift, electric w/chair securing, power tailgate. A/C. £14,995

Fiat Scudo Montana 1.9D, '98 R. Full low floor, 4 seats & wheelchair. £12,750

Volkswagen Transporter 1.9 Turbo Diesel. Power Steering electric lift space for two wheelchairs. £9,500

Fiat Fiorino. Rear ramp wheelchair access choice of 3 petrol/diesel. From £2,000

Plus others from £2,000

Ring 01626 853050

GM Coachwork Ltd, Teign Valley
Trusham, Newton Abbot
Devon TQ13 ONX

GM
COACHWORK
SPECIALIST VEHICLES



Candid Dan

Festive fun and present buying problems on DB's mind this month



As we reach the holiday season once again, I am acutely aware that this is the last time I will celebrate the festive season as a "young" man. You see, I am bracing myself for the bump that is the big 30 in April.

Despite this milestone looming closer, I am a firm believer in the idea of age as just a number, so I intend to celebrate this Christmas in just as hedonistic fashion as possible. So this year will host the 25th running of the emptying the jar of Roses steeplechase between mum and myself and the Jack Daniels memorial cup. This will be a one horse race as usual, as I tend to hide the bottle from the only other potential entrant – dad.

Staying with ma and pa brings that other nightmare – what to buy them. Having folks who have enough stuff in their home to rival Mr Al Fayed's corner shop means the trawl for pressies is a long one.

However, I am not so hard to please. I predict the dvd industry will do a roaring trade, with mates helping me to complete my Clint Eastwood collection. I'm dropping hints as subtle as the manner in which Mr E would drop bad guys. Whether friends will "make my day" with a deluge of the great man's films remains to be seen.

Then there's the new year. Rumours have it that Becky and I are visiting friends for a quiet period of reflection and peace – not! Said friends, Amelia and Andy, are not known for being too sedate, and previous visits to their abode have frequently resulted in my rolling round the floor in a highly unhinged state of hysterical inebriation. I'm just praying this visit is as predictable as previous ones.

• Publications

Mind, the Mental Health Charity, have published *Getting the Best from Your Approved Social Worker (ASW)*. The guide gives practical information about the role of approved social workers to assist and inform people faced with being sectioned under the Mental Health Act. It also looks at whether someone with mental health problems can be cared for in the community or requires admission to hospital, and the powers and responsibilities of ASWs. £1.44 inc. p&cp from Mind Publications, 15-19 Broadway, London E15 4BQ, tel: 020 8221 9666, email publications@mind.org.uk

The London Sports Forum for Disabled People (LSF) have published the second edition of its *A-Z of sports opportunities in Greater London for young people with learning disabilities*. It lists information on a range of sports and holiday schemes on offer in each of the London boroughs. Available in print, large print, audio tape, floppy disk and CD for £3. LSF, Ground Floor, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP. Tel: 020 7354 8666, email: isf@disabilitysport.freemove.co.uk

• Courses

The Open University will offer a new course entitled *Care, Welfare and Community* from February 2002 as part of its BA or BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care and BA or BSc (hons) Social Policy degrees. The core of the course will look at how care is experienced and delivered and students will have a chance to debate areas including whether welfare systems meet basic human needs, why care is sometimes seen as control and how ideas on care have changed over the years. For more information, contact the OU's School of Health and Social Welfare, tel: 01908 653743, website: www3.open.ac.uk/courses

ATTENTION

DN cannot guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Due to deadlines, please send details at the earliest opportunity.

The Metropolitan Police have published *Stay Safe*, a new booklet giving personal safety advice to Londoners with learning disabilities. The guide includes sections advising on safety in taxis, on buses and trains, in the street and home, and people who can help if there is trouble. The guide is available from community safety units at local police stations

throughout London and from organisations working with people with learning disabilities.

Ricability and PromoCon have jointly published *Children's Continence products - a guide for parents and children*. The guide shows the full range of continence products available for children and advice on how to choose

what's right for the individual child. For a single copy, send a large self-addressed envelope with 33p postage attached to Ricability, 30 Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1V 2PT or PromoCon, Disabled Living, St Chad's Street, Manchester M8 8QA.

WordWorks have published *The Keyworker - a practical guide*. Written in conjunction

with family support charity the Handsel Trust, it is a practical guide for parents, practitioners, service planners and managers, and looks at what a keyworker is, the principles on which keyworkers operate and protocols for an effective keyworker system. £16, tel/fax: 0121 441 1580, ISBN 1 903210 10, email: wordworks@talk21.com

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES - BUILT UP TO A STANDARD NOT DOWN TO PRICE



*This is a trademark of Motability:
registered charity no: 299745 used under licence



FRONT
ACCESS



A new Ford Focus complete with attendant Carchair system from £14,051

REAR
ACCESS



Peugeot Expert 1.9 Diesel from £16,515

REAR
ACCESS



Renault Kangoo 1.4 from £12,555

FRONT
ACCESS



A new Peugeot 806 complete with attendant Carchair system from £24,250



Constables LTD

Please contact us for a full brochure pack
tel: 01323 767574 fax: 01323 767603 email: info@constablesltd.com

THE FLEXIBLE SPECIALISTS PROVIDING THE ANSWERS



The dream

.... becomes reality



Drive directly from your own wheelchair

It's unique, a fully automated Drive from Wheelchair solution is here - Suzuki Life and it is set to revolutionise the lifestyle options for many with disabilities. It's a car, take a look for yourself and you will hardly be able to spot the difference and what's more neither will anyone else. But on the inside it is very special indeed. Fully automated, remotely controlled tailgate and fold out ramp system gives instant access to the radically modified lowered floorpan - right up to the driving position where the wheelchair is automatically locked down. Press the button to close the tailgate, press another to release the handbrake, engage the automatic gearbox and you're away. Just 30 seconds or so, including time for you and your two passengers to put on their seatbelts.

Making "Life" a little easier

... And our "Liberty" range of wheelchair accessible vehicles are legendary



Mercedes Benz V Class

Wheelchair accessible luxury MPV from £21,995 on the road
Drive from wheelchair luxury MPV from just £29,995 on the road



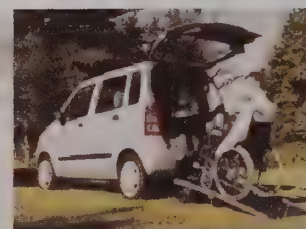
NEW Seat Alhambra

Sporting wheelchair accessible MPV from £18,995 on the road



NEW Chrysler Voyager

Wheelchair accessible luxury MPV from just £19,995 on the road



Suzuki Wagon R+

Modern wheelchair accessible car from just £9,995 on the road



Vauxhall Agila

Wheelchair accessible car from just £9,995 on the road



No compromise, wheelchair accessible **motor cars** from the people who really care

Call today for a FREE info pack

0121 502 2252

Or visit our website www.jubileeauto.co.uk

Jubilee Automotive Group Ltd, Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, WS10 0NQ (2 miles from junct.1 M5 or junct. 9 M6 Motorway)

Freedom, Independence and Reliability.

Powerchairs promise you:

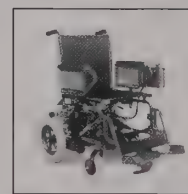
- A caring service from a family run business.
- Unique price guarantee that you can't buy cheaper anywhere.
- Up to 8mph for road use.
- Free home assessments.
- Free 12 months insurance on new models.
- No VAT.
- No driving license required.
- Low deposit finance available on request.

- We stock machines that carry up to 32 stone and can go from 10-35 miles on one charge
- Automatic battery charge included.
- All major credit cards accepted.

We buy second-hand electric wheelchairs and scooters.

100s of nearly new machines in stock at prices to suit all pockets.

Part exchanges welcome.



For further help and advice FREEPHONE

0800 0746834

PowerchairS

Est 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

• More Publications

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) has published *RNID's Directory of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People*. It contains information on areas including hearing therapists, deaf and hard of hearing clubs, national, regional and local organisations and colleges and universities. £34.99 plus £2.50 p&p from RNID information line, tel: 0808 808 0123, textphone: 0808 808 9000, e-mail: informationline@rnid.org.uk

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) have published *If Only I'd Known That A Year Ago*. Aimed at newly disabled people, their families and friends, the guide provides information on areas including accommodation, discrimination, health services and public transport. £5, tel: 020 7250 3222, minicom 020 7250 4119.

The Centre for Policy on Ageing has published *Owning Independence in Retirement*: the role and benefits of private sheltered housing for older people. The report provides an overview of current policy and practice relating to private sheltered housing for older people. It also looks at the characteristics of the ageing population, changing preferences among older people and trends in housing provision. £15 from Central Books, tel: 020 8986 5488, e-mail: mo@centralbooks.com

The South Devon VIP Association has published *Who Do I Contact?*, a book listing services, information and products for blind and visually impaired people living in the South West. Areas covered include information technology, leisure and travel and where to get information in alternative formats. Businesses are also invited to send in their details for inclusion in future issues. Free. Tel: 01626 206726, e-mail: info.whodocontact@virgin.net

Spacekraft have published *Exploring multi-sensory rooms – a practitioners "hands-on" guide*. The book aims to give carers working with people with learning difficulties and special needs advice on how to get more from multi-sensory environments and includes checklists to help with assessing potential users. £89. Tel: 01274 581007, e-mail: enquiries@spacekraft.co.uk

DN LINAGE

Tel: 020 7619 7320, Fax: 020 7619 7331, Minicom: 020 7619 7332, E-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

• Personal

SCOTTISH LADY, 51, attractive, bubbly personality, disability is polio but active. Interests include theatre, cinema, driving, eating out and travelling. Looking for a kind, caring man for companionship. Box No: 138

MY LIFE IS far too quiet. I am 56, female, a wheelchair user and live in Birmingham. What about adding some spice to life and contacting me. Box No: 139

BLACK MALE, 35, able-bodied wltm a single blind/deaf/disabled female, 22-49 for friendship/relationship. Box No: 140

• Cars/vans

CHAIRMAN ESCORT ELITE, auto, lowering suspension for wheelchair access, G reg, 37k miles. Full service record, good condition, well maintained. £950 ono. Tel: 01788 575550 (Rugby).

RENAULT TRAFIC 1996 N reg T1100 Versa, 39k miles, petrol, 5 seats. Wheelchair access, winch and ramp, £5,200. Tel: 01732 864091 (Kent).

NISSAN SERENA 2.3 diesel, N reg, Ricon lift, 22k miles, MOT Aug 2002, fsh. Electric front windows, two spare seats. £7,500. Tel: 0161 432 7265.

FIAT FIORINO 1.7D, M reg, 52k miles, wheelchair passenger carrier +3. Ramp and winch for manual wheelchair. MOT Oct 2002, stereo cassette radio. Excellent condition. Red, 50 miles per gallon £3,500 ono. Tel: 01403 786251.

RENAULT EXTRA FINESSE, one owner, G reg July 90, only 63k miles, blue, 1400 cc, petrol, manual, MOT July 2002. 3 seats plus wheelchair via rear ramp. Good value at £500. Tel: 020 8546 5310 (SW London).

FORD ESCORT 1800, diesel, 5 speed, manual, L reg, white. MOT expires June 2002, air suspension, ramp, carries 5 with wheelchair. £2,995. Tel: 01795 510888.

RENAULT ESPACE (ELIZE) 2.0, N reg, 7 seats, auto, air conditioned. Twin sun-roofs. £7,950. Tel: 01494 717700 (Bucks).

CHAIRMAN FIAT FIORINO 1.7, turbo diesel, green, R reg July 1998, MOT June 2002, 17k miles, electric winch, two rear passenger seats. £3,500. Tel: 01327 312716.

CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.8i, X reg, 5k miles, Brotherwood conversion, rear ramp, p.a.s., a/c, remote central locking, electric windows. As new, £13,000 ono. Tel: 01332 672650.

RENAULT ESPACE WITH Atlas high-roof conversion for wheelchair passenger. Model 2.0 TXE injection (U/L), H reg, 93k miles, 5-speed manual, P/A steering, electric windows/locking/mirrors etc. Assisted manual ramp, Unwin clamps and carabiners for restraint, seatbelt. 5 seats (3 removable). Loads of space, full height rear door, fully serviced, one owner, dark green. £3,500. Tel: 01477 532643 (Cheshire) Fax: 01477 533440 Email: foxbox@btinternet.com

NISSAN PRAIRIE 94 (L reg), dark red, auto, full Brotherwood conversion. Ramped rear access, new electric winch. Carries adult wheelchair and 4 seats. 2 owners, 30k miles, tax and MOT March 2002. Full service history, immaculate condition. £9,900 ono. Tel: 020 8850 7236 (S. London).

VW CARAVELLE GL, 2.4L diesel, red, N reg, 78k miles. Vgc, full service history. Underfloor side access lift. MOT until March 2002. £9,500. Tel: 01732 453300

RENAULT EXTRA 1.4RN, R reg, 23k miles, 12 months MOT, rear access ramp, rear passenger seat, vgc, £5950. Tel: 07754 540854.

LDV 3.5 MINIBUS, 2.5 diesel, P reg. 20k miles, MOT and tax for one year. Fitted with air suspension and ramp. Holds 8 people and 4 wheelchairs. £9,000 ono. Tel: 01954 210917 (Cambridge).

MERCEDES VITO 108CDI, 2.3 diesel, fitted with an electric lift. Only 10 months old. 675 miles on clock. £17,500 ono. Tel David Campbell: 01954 210917 (Cambridge).

MERCEDES BENZ 210 van, blue, with hand controls. MOT expires June 2002. Ricon side-lift, E reg, petrol, fsh, only 2 owners. Converted to camper with sink and two berths. 44k miles. £3,250. Tel: 020 7277 5059 or 07765 514128.

RENAULT TRAFIC CRUISER T1100 converted for wheelchair by Lewis Reed, will accommodate six persons including wheelchair. First registered May 1996, 25k miles, vgc, 2165cc, petrol, MOT to 04/02. £4,950. Tel: 01725 510646 (Salisbury, Wilts).

Linage continues on page 34 & 36

Independent Living promoting independence London

18/19 September 2002, Wembley Conference & Exhibition Centre, London

For the latest information visit www.independentlivingevents.co.uk

Rehab & Care 2002

The National Event Promoting Independence

20/21 November 2002, NEC, Birmingham

For the latest information visit www.rehabandcare.co.uk.co.uk



Organised by:

emap healthcare events



Supported by:



RED FIAT FIORINO. Good looking. Universal Mobility wheelchair conversion. With winch and ramp for carrying occupied wheelchair. Carries wheelchair plus 4 (including driver). L reg, 58k miles, good condition. Will sell for £2,500. Tel: 01873 852860.

VW CARAVELLE 2.4, diesel, 1994 M reg, 64k miles, fsh. One owner from new. Central locking, electric windows, 4 seats & wheelchair, rear mounted Ricon wheelchair lift. Recaro passenger seat on Ricon 6-way base, Milford Person Lift fitted. Travel in wheelchair or passenger seat. Designed for passenger with no independent mobility. £6,900. Tel: 0114 2308464.

• Wheelchairs/scooters

ELAP ROTATING CAR seat unit, beige trim. Today's price £650, bargain at £350. As new condition. Tel: 01200 429453.

SUNRISE F40 ELECTRIC wheelchair with kerb climber. Excellent condition, £700. Tel: 01293 882032 (Crawley, Sussex).

CYCLONE WHEELCHAIR TITANIUM, quick release wheels and racing detachable hand peddler and 5 gears, lights, leather seat, purple and gold, as new. Cost over £3,000, offers. Tel: 01483 419274.

SHOPRIDER SOVEREIGN DELUXE 4 wheeled scooter. Complete with charger, shopping basket and rear view mirror. Very little used. Excellent condition. £950 ono. Tel: 01332 690693. Email ssuzibear@aol.com

CARONY WHEELCHAIR SYSTEM, vgc, 20 ins rear wheels. No more lifting in and out from car to wheelchair. £1,500 ono. Tel: 01425 610883 (Hampshire).

SWEDE ELITE LIGHTWEIGHT wheelchair. 14 ins seat. Including fillings. £250. Tel: 01732 453300.

• Trikes/Bikes/Go-Karts

WRK SUPA GO-KART, fully adjustable, pommel and foot clamps, side restraints, upper body support, gear ratio 1:1, suits child 8-16 years old. Cost £780. As new, sell for £250 ono. Tel: 01761 233068 (evenings).

• Property for letting

SE CORNWALL, HESSENFORD, near Looe, 15 miles from Plymouth. Wheelchair accessible detached small house, newly decorated throughout. 3 good sized bedrooms. Front hall approached by covered porch. Large lounge, oil-fired stove. Large 'L' shaped study/dining room. Cloak/utility, washing machine, tumble drier, deep-freeze. Kitchen fully fitted. Stannah Stairlift. Bathroom with optional bath hoist chair. Curtained, carpeted throughout, otherwise unfurnished. Secondary glazing. Small garden. Parking 2/3. Burglar alarm. Night storage heating. £600 pcm. Tel Hunt Associates: 01752 849689. Fax: 01752 859177. (Saltash, Cornwall.)

• Recruitment (on pages 34 to 37)



Assistant Director (NJC 28 – 30 £19,014 – £20,433 + pension)
Essex Coalition of Disabled People (ECDP) is a local organisation run and controlled by disabled people. The main focus of the job will be to increase the involvement of disabled people from all backgrounds in the work of ECDP, to represent the organisation in different forums and to generally assist the Managing Director.
You will need to have a firm commitment to applying the principles of independent living and the social model of disability.
This contract is initially for a 12 month period but will be re-newed, subject to a successful application for further funding. **This post is open to disabled people only.**
To receive an information pack and application form please contact the address below quoting Ref AD1. **Closing date 7th December 2001.**
Essex Coalition of Disabled People, Unit 7, 'Whitelands', Terling Road, Hatfield Peverel Essex, CM3 2AQ Tel/Fax: (01245) 382176, Minicom: (01245) 382524, Email: info@ecdpc.co.uk

COURSES

To advertise your vacancies or courses please contact
Richard, tel: 020 7619 7336, or Patrick, tel: 020 7619 7320, or
contact them both on fax: 020 7619 7331, minicom: 020 7619 7332. They can go on the web as well!

• For Sale (cont. pg 37)

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE		
2000 W Berlingo Chairman 1.4, lowering & Winch 4K miles	£11,750	
1999 T VW 1.9 TD, by Universal, PAS, lowering suspension 8K miles	£11,995	
1999 T Fiat Ulysees TD EL, Top spec. 5 seats & wheelchair 12.5K miles	£15,250	
1998 R VW Cruiser 2.5 TD, Auto, 7K miles, Tail Lift	£12,750	
1998 R VW Sharon 2.0, Auto 26K miles, 5 seats & wheelchair	£13,500	
1997 P Escort Chairman, Auto/PAS, 31K miles, lowering suspension	£7,995	
1993 K Metro Chairman, Auto, 10K miles	£3,750	
Nissan Vanette Cargo & Renault Trafic models	Choice of 10	
Fiat Scudos & Peugeot Expert models	Choice of 3	

A selection of 35 WAVs from £2,750 fully serviced with warranty. Demo and delivery anywhere in UK mainland free. Part exchange and vehicles sought for purchase.

CLARKE MOBILITY
SNODLAND, KENT
01634 243596
www.gfclarke.co.uk

PRE-OWNED & DEMONSTRATOR WAV'S FOR SALE

VW Caravelle 2.4D, '96 N, red. Lowering suspension, tip up forward facing rear seats, lowered rear access	£12,250
Ford Courier 1.3P Auto, '97 P, white. Lowering suspension gowings conversion.	£7,800
VW Transporter SWB 1.9TD, '95 M, green. 4 passengers, driver and wheelchair, WAV conversion	£9,750
Austin/Rover Montego 2.0LXi, estate, Auto, '94 M, only 55k miles, very clean. Fitted with hand controls.	£1,750
Renault Traffic T1400 2.0P, '93 L, 48k miles, white. 4 Pass & 2/3 wheelchairs or 9 Pass.	£5,250
Fiat Ulysse 2.0EL, R reg, 50k miles. Lowered floor with ramp. Driver, 3 pass & wheelchair. PAS, twin sunroofs, climate control & electric windows.	£11,000
Nissan Prairie SLX 2.0P, '89 G, 2-tone grey. Brotherwood WAV conversion, driver, 3 pass & wheelchairs.	£4,750

New or ex-demo Renault Kangoo and Citroen Berlingo Multispace WAVs - call for prices and spec'.
All the above vehicles come with our Comprehensive Used Vehicle Warranty

95 Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife KY15 4LG
Tel: (01334) 657722, fax: (01334) 657711,
e-mail: sales@gleneaglesconversions.co.uk
website: www.gleneaglesconversions.co.uk



Waltham Forest Council

A choice of quality jobs providing quality services



Waltham Forest Council serves a multi-racial community. To help us build a representative work force, we welcome applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

ACCESS OFFICER

£23,748 - £29,124 p.a. inc.

Ref: EBC204 / DN

We are seeking to appoint an Access Officer who will be based in Environmental Services but who will be responsible for access advice throughout the Council. London Borough of Waltham Forest has an excellent reputation on access issues and there is a strong Access Group in the borough. The Access Officer will be responsible for organising programmes of access improvements to the Council's own buildings to comply with DDA requirements and the Council's own guidelines. The person appointed will also have responsibility for monitoring planning applications and for negotiating with developers and designers to procure the best access standards. The Officer is also expected to advise on highway and landscape developments. The Access Officer administers the implementation of the access grants budgets, monitoring performance and reporting back on progress and outcomes. They are also responsible for producing and updating our Access Guidelines.

Applicants who have direct personal experience of access barriers due to disability or other reasons are particularly encouraged to apply for this post. A background in surveying, architecture or similar discipline would be an advantage.

This post is available for Job Share.

Job details are available on tape upon request.

Closing date: 10th December 2001.

Interview date: w/c 19th December 2001.

For an application form and further details apply to Personnel Unit, Municipal Offices, The Ridgeway, London E4 6PS. Tel: 020 8524 7882. Minicom: 020 8524 4360.

To view all vacancies and apply online please visit www.lbwf.gov.uk/jobs

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Powerchairs Mobility Consultants
New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 Wheel Scooters.
All models wanted and for sale.
Ring Free anytime
0800 074 6834
All major credit cards accepted

Gravesham Mobility
"We care for your care"

- Mobility scooters
- Stairlifts
- All invalid accessories

01474 564897

38-40 Perry Street
Northfleet
Kent
DA11 8RE



COTSWOLD COTS

Build Cots and Beds for Adults and Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any
Cot or Bed You Need.

New Products Extra Strong Playpens.
Extra Large Stairgates.
Fitted Padded Play Areas.
High Quality Fair prices
Information Phone 01993 842885

For Sale continues on page 37

• Services

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Birkdale Clinic: my practice has a relaxed and tranquil atmosphere. The aim of the treatment, which comes about as a result of co-operation between myself, as the therapist, and the patients, is to empower, encourage and motivate the person to regain their confidence and awareness of their body. Call Mrs Bondarenko.
Tel: 020 8998 9403

Classified linage advertisements

Please use this form if you are a private individual and want to place a classified advertisement (not Personal adverts). Write clearly in block capitals. Remember to allow a space between words. Use each space in the line even if you have to split words at the end.

Linage styles

EXAMPLE OF standard linage advert.
Cost: £6 per line. Tick box below.

EXAMPLE OF semi-display linage advert. Cost: £6 per line plus £10. Tick box below.

EXAMPLE OF box linage advert. Cost: £6 per line plus £20. Tick box below.

Choose an advert style from far right. Send this coupon with your name, address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to Disability Now to: 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Sorry no refunds. DN is a non-profit making newspaper.

- ☐ Standard linage advert
- ☐ Semi-display linage advert
- ☐ Box linage advert

We're talking the same language

We're the Disability Rights Commission and delivering a concise, clearly understood message that promotes a society where all disabled people can participate fully as equal citizens is what we're all about. But we're also concerned with offering personally rewarding careers and large-scale opportunity for everyone. And that includes you.

Case Work Manager

Up to £31,695 ~ Manchester Ref 25463/DN

Responsible for a team of 8 caseworkers, you'll support, advise and prioritise their caseload. Leading by example, you'll manage your own portfolio and deputise for the Head of Casework when required. Confident in your ability to handle difficult clients, you'll be a proficient communicator and provide clear, concise written reports for legal representation. With previous experience of managing a team, you'll possess excellent influencing skills and a superior analytical approach, (particularly in relation to the framework of the DDA 1995), combined with experience of investigating and preparing proceedings for Employment Tribunal/County Court.

Closing date for return of application forms
7th December 2001.

Information and Contract Manager

£23,345 - £31,695 ~ Manchester Ref 25460/DN
1 years maternity cover

Managing the current DRC Helpline Service, this key role will ensure that consistent quality standards and Key Performance indicators are being monitored and achieved. Responsible for a team of information officers, you'll manage their personal development, ensuring that their knowledge is being constantly updated and setting and measuring performance with tact and diplomacy. Customer focussed with experience of people management, you'll be IT literate in all MS Office products. You'll require excellent report writing and presentation skills together with analytical ability.

Marketing and Events Manager

£23,345 - £31,695 ~ Manchester Ref 25462/DN

Managing the DRC's first seminars, debates and national conferences, you'll ensure that these events are high profile and successful for disabled and non-disabled participants alike. Liaising with event management, Media Relations teams and external suppliers, you'll co-ordinate a successful outcome for the DRC. With an exemplary track record in managing both small and large events, you'll understand disability access and how to use marketing methods to the DRC's benefit. Possessing excellent organisational skills, you be a confident, credible communicator with the ability to make a positive and lasting impression.

Practice Development Officer (Secondment)

Up to £31,695 ~ Manchester Ref 25465/DN

Promoting best practice within Education, you'll be responsible for developing practice in specific areas and identifying opportunities to promote disability equality. You'll need substantial experience of bringing about change in the field of Education in relation to disabled people. You should have excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to build and maintain relationships and will be a problem solver and active team player.

So, if you'd like to communicate your enthusiasm for these exciting roles – we'd love to talk to you. For more information you can either call 0800 0684912 or minicom:0207 406 5790. Alternatively you can e-mail us at drcjobs@tmp.com or visit our website via www.drc-gb.org. Closing date for return of application forms unless otherwise stated 10th December 2001. Telephone lines are open, Mon - Fri 9.00am til 8.00pm.

Development and Promotions Officer

£15,864 - £23,345 ~ Edinburgh Ref 25457/DN

Co-ordinating and implementing development strategies to enhance the work of the DRC in Scotland, you'll place specific emphasis on Education based work. Ensuring that the education work of the DRC in Scotland addresses the issues faced by disabled children, young people and adults, you'll be confident, credible communicator with excellent communication and influencing skills. Fully conversant with SENDA and other legislation including the Education (Disability Strategies and Pupil's Records)(Scotland) Bill, you'll work extensively with disabled people and colleagues in public, private and voluntary sectors. Your ability to take forward work in this area will be important to the development of the DRC Scotland.

Policy and Public Affairs Officer

£15,864 - £23,345 ~ Edinburgh Ref 25458/DN

Involved with research, policy development and the management of partnerships with a range of DRC stakeholders, you'll identify, draft, manage and participate in policy and research initiatives. You'll ensure that the work of the DRC Scotland is specifically strengthened in the area of education. Taking forward research and educational focused consultative or promotional work. Possessing superior interpersonal, communication and negotiating skills you'll develop Education policy and public affairs strategies and your motivation and drive will help to deliver positive results.

Information Officer Education

£15,864 - £23,345 ~ Stratford Ref 25487/DN

Providing responses to request for information and advice, you'll support all helpline operators and keep them fully briefed regarding current and ongoing developments. This role will support the helpline team, specifically in the field of education and disability related issues and you'll therefore need an in-depth knowledge of the Special Educational needs and Disability Act (SENDA). Possessing experience of disability advice and information provision, you'll be skilled at presenting to large, disparate audiences, have a thorough knowledge of all disability-related legislation, particularly the DDA. And be willing to travel extensively throughout the UK.

Information Officers

£15,864 - £23,345 1 x Manchester Ref 25459/DN
1 x Stratford Ref 25468/DN

Providing responses to request for information and advice, you'll support all helpline operators and keep them fully briefed regarding current and ongoing developments. This role will support the team, specifically in disability related issues and you'll therefore need an in-depth knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act. Possessing experience of disability advice and information provision, you'll be skilled at presenting to large, disparate audiences, have a thorough knowledge of all disability-related legislation, particularly the DDA, and be willing to travel extensively throughout the UK.

Disability Rights Commission

• Accommodation

BEAUTIFUL FREEHOLD 2 bed apartment in retirement development in Eastbourne. Close to sea front, shops and parks. South facing, fully carpeted and lined curtains plus nets. Converted bathroom to shower room for wheelchair access. Luxurious reception, restaurant, lounge, coffee room and activity room. Lovely communal gardens. 24 hour care and emergency pull cords. Two lifts for easy access. Day trips, activities etc., all arranged. Quick sale due to bereavement. Over 55 year olds only. £153,950 plus monthly service charge. Tel: 01323 502711.

VERY SPACIOUS DETACHED bungalow, all on one level full width doors perfect for wheelchair access, level paths & patios, secluded gardens, in plot of approx 1/3 acre on Bexley/Greenwich border. Doctor's surgery next door, 5 mins to BR, 25 mins Central London, 5 mins high street & amenities. Comprises 4 double beds, 2 baths, 2 separate wc's, 22'9" x 18'6" lounge, separate dining room. Double garage. £375k Tel for photos/details 020 8319 0817.

• Household/Family

ALL NEW: Recliner/lift up armchair in tapestry, electric. £1,000. Rollator cable brake Zimmer on wheels with seat/storage. £125. Toilet surround with support arms. £30. High perch stool with padded arms and back. £75. Tel: 01323 502711.

FREE ADJUSTABLE BEDS. Foot pump action, tip with wheels and brakes. Hospital type, good condition. Free to anyone prepared to take away. Tel: 0117 9628723 (Bristol).

FREE: ENCLOSED LIFT - to anyone prepared to remove and take away. Covers 2 floors, approximately 18 ft between each floor, 3 exits. Tel: 0117 9628723 (Bristol).

• Combined

EVEREST & JENNINGS Wayfarer electric wheelchair. Excellent range, speed & manoeuvrability, with lights and horn. Superb quality machine. Left-hand control, ideal for stroke patient. £1,100. Also, 150 kg powered hoist for car. Email p@pwcars.co.uk or tel: 01753 647777.

To reply to a personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope **Private and Confidential**. If you do not it will be opened. Send it to **DN**, address on page 2.

SEND US YOUR SMALLS... ...and make a big impression. Small ads in **DN** reach over 70,000 people for just £6 a line. All small ads must be paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form provided. Send it with a cheque for the total to **Disability Now**, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

For personal ads, submit about 25 words and send a cheque or postal order for £10 payable to **Disability Now** with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

• Recruitment (on pages 34 to 37)



Disabled Drivers' Motor Club.

Reg Charity 260331

Information and Support Worker
£17,823 - £19,014 pa NJC 26 - 28
35 hours per week

The DDMC was founded in 1922, the world's first organisation of disabled motorists. It needs a dynamic person to lead a new project to develop and support its structures across the UK and enable disabled motorists to intervene in local, regional and national government. You'll need an understanding of the needs of disabled people, a commitment to working with volunteers, a basic knowledge of computers and the ability to travel to meetings across the UK.

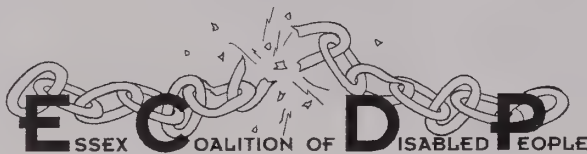
For an information pack telephone 01832 735154 or write to: DDMC, Cottingham Way, Thrapston, Northants NN14 4PL. For an informal discussion contact Ed Passant (Chief Exec) 020 8352 1522

Closing Date: 21st Dec. Interviews: 15th Jan

Applications from disabled people positively welcomed. Fully accessible office. The DDMC is committed to Equal Opportunities.

This post is funded by the Community Fund for 3 years

COMMUNITY FUND



'Training The Trainers' Tender

You are invited to tender for the following training package. ECDP is looking for suitably qualified Disability Equality Trainers to run a 'Training the Trainers' course for between 10 - 14 participants by 31st March 2002. The programme must enable them to acquire the skills and competencies to become Disability Equality Trainer in their own right.

There is available funding of up £5,000. The bid must include:

- Full CVs
- Proposed training programme
- Clear aims and objectives

Closing date **7th December 2001**. For further details contact:

Essex Coalition of Disabled People, Unit 7, 'Whitelands', Terling Road, Hatfield Peverel Essex, CM3 2AQ Tel/Fax: (01245) 382176, Minicom: (01245) 382524, Email: info@ecdp.co.uk

Conditions

Disability Now maintains the right to amend or withdraw lineage adverts without prior notice. All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Telephone numbers and addresses will not be placed in personal adverts, for confidentiality. Instead, Box numbers will be provided. Likewise, telephone numbers and addresses will not be given out over the telephone if requested.

Box Numbers can be requested for non-personal adverts. However, it may limit the response to it. If you want to advertise documents, goods or services contact **Patrick Durham-Matthews** (tel: 020 7619 7320) or **Richard Gresham** (tel: 020 7619 7336), fax: 020 7619 7331.

Lineage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to Richard Gresham (see contact details above).

DN cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of adverts or letters during forwarding. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the content of their advert, and to ensure any abbreviations cannot be misunderstood.

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER.

We are committed to increasing the number of disabled people that we employ. If you are a disabled person seeking employment, why not request a copy of the Authority's vacancy bulletin? It can be sent to you free of charge for up to 6 months. To assist you in getting a job we guarantee you an interview, providing you meet the minimum requirements of the post. Support and funding is available to provide for adaptations that may be necessary.

To order your copy please contact Abbie Pepperell in the Employee Relations Group, County Personnel Department on 01823 355502. An Equal Opportunities Employer



• Tenders

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR:

USE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AS FALSE EXCUSE FOR NOT EMPLOYING PEOPLE WHO ARE ILL, INJURED OR DISABLED - RESEARCH CONTRACT -
RSU Ref: 4340/R68.071

The Government is committed to helping people who have been ill to return to work and to improving work opportunities for people currently not in employment due to ill health or disability. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) and others are working together to ensure that there are no inappropriate 'health and safety' barriers to employment. Information is needed on which to base appropriate action.

The HSE and DRC therefore invite applications to establish the extent and nature of the problem of health and safety requirements being used as a false excuse for not employing disabled people or not retaining 'ill', injured or disabled employees.

For further information and a tender pack, please contact Mark Harrison by e-mail: mark.harrison@hse.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0114 289 2356 quoting HSE reference 4340.

Completed bids should be returned by noon 18 January 2002 to the following address: Mark Harrison, Research Strategy Unit, HSE, Royal Exchange Buildings, Garden Street, Sheffield S1 4BJ.



www.hse.gov.uk

TECHNICAL WORK BASED ASSESSMENTS

The Employment Service, Southwest Disability Service aims to help disabled people obtain and retain employment. As a part of this process, clients may need help through the Access to Work Programme. This programme can help to fund the provision of adaptations to premises and/or specialist equipment such as enhanced I.T packages or ergonomic changes/equipment. As part of this process it may be necessary to carry out an assessment of client need at the workplace.

The Employment Service is therefore seeking tenders to deliver these assessments from organisations with the relevant expertise. Contracts will be awarded to cover parts or all of the following:-

Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath & Northeast Somerset, North Somerset, Somerset, Swindon, Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

If you would be interested in tendering to deliver these assessments in all or part of the areas described above then please contact the following by **Friday 30th November 2001**.

CAROL DAVIES,
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE,
REGIONAL PROCUREMENT TEAM,
THE PITHAY,
BRISTOL.
TEL: 0117 9456696 FAX: 0117 9456799

If you already deliver this service for the Employment Service in the South West Region you do not need to respond to this advertisement, as you will automatically be invited to tender.



Employment Service

• Recruitment (on pages 34 to 37)

WE ARE GETTING BETTER AT THE NHS...

Kingston Hospital
NHS Trust



The NHS, as one of the largest employers in Europe, is keen to ensure our workforce reflects all the diversities in our society. As a 'Positive about Disabled People' employer we are actively encouraging disabled people to consider working for us at Kingston Hospital NHS Trust.

We are recognised as one of the top 40 hospitals in the country, having achieved international renown for our innovative approach to the provision of healthcare and we are dedicated to the personal and professional development of our staff.

If you want to find out more, please get in touch with Kingston Job Centre for a full list of all our vacancies. Alternatively, keep an eye on the press and other media sources.

Kingston Hospital NHS Trust, Galsworthy Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 7QB
email: ppage@kingstonhospital.nhs.uk



Employment Support for Disabled People

The Employment Service can provide employment and job retention advice to disabled people who are facing additional employment barriers associated with their disability.

Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs) can provide:

- employment assessment
- job seeking advice and support
- information on specialist employment programmes for disabled people
- advice on remaining in work

For more information get in touch with your local Jobcentre



Employment
Service

• For Sale

Highlands Guest House

For the last four years I have been running **Highlands Guest House** in Glastonbury and have developed a thriving Bed and Breakfast business which included a self-contained studio flat with Category 1 status for wheelchair users.

This is an ideal business for a couple one of whom may have a disability and be confined to a wheelchair. The self contained studio is a perfect private area for the owners. The disabled partner could be responsible for the office work, laundry and welcoming visitors and the abled bodied partner would carry out the domestic duties and cook for B&B guests upstairs. With the addition of an outside stair lift and a couple of one step ramps even the upstairs of the property could be accessible. For a glimpse of the house and the wonderful views see: www.glastonbury.co.uk/accom/highlands/indexhtml

The facilities for the private studio are described in "Smooth Ride Guide - United Kingdom" page 227/8 and: "Holidays in Britain and Ireland 2001" RADAR page 209 I am now, reluctantly selling the property, the business, and the good will that I have developed with many regular visitors. (There are already bookings up to November 2002!) and no free weekends before Christmas.

The house which has five bedrooms, three ensuite bathrooms, a further two toilets, and a shower, patio, balcony, decking and hillside garden; has been valued as a business at £525,000.

Highlands is only 400 metres from the town centre but has a steep drive with level parking at the top. Electric wheelchair users have climbed the drive without difficulty but it is a challenge for anyone pushing a manual chair!

Tel/Fax: 01458 834587 • Email: highlands@eclipse.co.uk • Website: www.glastonbury.co.uk/accom/highlands/indexhtml

DISCLAIMER

DN is not responsible for claims made in the adverts it prints. Readers are advised to check claims with advertisers before relying on them.

DEADLINES

January 2002 classified deadlines: Booking: 27th November. Copy: 4th December

• Personnel

Handidate
Introduction Agency

Call now for
free brochure

For disabled and
able-bodied people

Established 1987

Tel: 01473 226950
Fax: 01473 254030

E-mail: handidate@btinternet.com
Website: www.handidate.com

Freeport, Handidate, The Wellington Centre,
52 Chevallier Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BR
A member of ABIA

ORANGE BLOSSOM COAST
2 Brand new, air conditioned, beach front apartments in delightful resort on Spain's unspoilt Orange Blossom Coast.
Sleep up to 6 per apartment. Wheel-in shower, shower chair, hoist available, easy access pool, close to bars, shops, and restaurants. Flights, insurance and transfer arranged. Call 08702 41 61 27 for brochure.

**Norfolk, Nar Valley
Holiday Cottages**
3 self-catering, all wheelchair accessible, 1 with wheel-in shower room, 2 with airbaths. Mostly en-suite. On working farm - peaceful location, central for beaches and tourist attractions. Indoor heated swimming pool.
**More details and prices, contact:
Rosemary on 01760 338797.**

• Holidays

The Algarve, Portugal

Small hotel owned and run by English family. Home from home. Happy and friendly. Home cooked food. Diets catered for. All bedrooms en-suite. Our own swimming pool and grass bowling green. Golfing bookings can be made. We are fully equipped for wheelchair users, their families and friends. Met at Faro airport. For brochures and flights with A.T.O.L. agents, tel: 01235 521804

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

HOME WITH A HEART FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS!

SPACIOUS, LUXURY, ADAPTED BUNGALOW SITUATED ON GOLF COURSE.
3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS (MANGAR BATHLIFT INSTALLED),
CABLE TV, FREE LOCAL TELEPHONE CALLS, FREE COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP.
24 HR 'ON CALL' MANAGEMENT COMPANY.
15 mins ORLANDO AIRPORT, 20 mins DISNEY.
PARAPLEGIC OWNER.

SUE FISHER, 5 PARK LANE,
BROUGHTON PARK, SALFORD M7 4HT.
TEL/FAX: 0161 792 3029

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Willow Cottage - The Black Isle, 5 mins drive Inverness.
Beautifully equipped, Tourist Board 3 stars with Disability Award 2.
1 double, 1 twin, both ensuite. Situated on a working croft amid lovely scenery with wildlife park close by. Moray Firth dolphins, kites, buzzards, deer etc, and our Nessie! Inverness offers good food, cinema, theatre etc.
Brochure/details, tel: 01463 731455, website: www.culbincrothouse.co.uk, e-mail: info@culbincrothouse.co.uk

ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

Lots of villas, farmhouses, bungalows, hotels, B&B, car hire with hand controls, adapted vans and plenty to see and do.
Contact: David Player
Tel: 00 351 289 393636
Fax: 00 351 289 397448 E-mail: dave@player.pt

www.player.pt

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL

"Holiday Care Award Winners"
Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.
Please ring or write for colour brochure.
R&N Hall, Penrose Burden,
St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall
PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin
(01208) 850277 or 850617

Newlands Country House, Suffolk

Purpose built grade 1 wheelchair accessible suites, 4 diamonds. All rooms en-suite, tv. Ample carparking, large garden. Mid-week breaks available. For details tel: 01502 722164.
www.SmoothHound.com

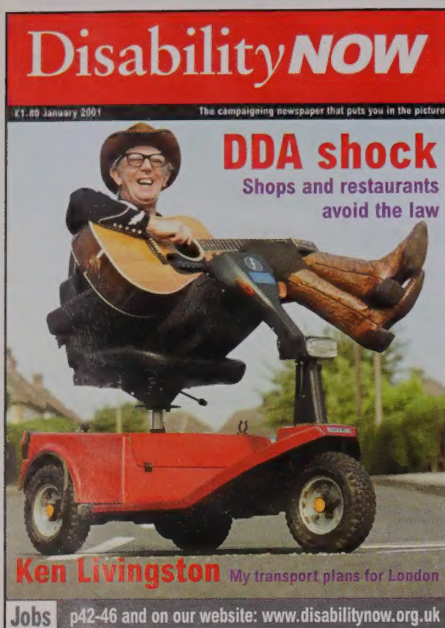
Near Salisbury - newly converted stable block self-catering units. Ground floor 1 double/twin bedroom en-suite wheel-in shower. Upstairs 1 double, 1 single, shower room. Open plan kitchen & living room. Patio & shared garden. ETB category 2, 4-star highly commended. Non-smoking. Prices from £195 pw. Available all year. Tel: 01722 349002, e-mail: mail@old-stables.co.uk, www.old-stables.co.uk

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOLIDAY COTTAGE IN RURAL FRANCE

Charming cottage in Dordogne region available for rent. Reasonable rates. If you are looking for peace and quiet, warm weather, good food and wine, this is the place for you. Book now for 2001. Call or fax Ed Passant on 0208 885 4971 or e-mail: ed.passant@mail.com

Brittany Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details **C. Hodgson.**
Tel (01924) 499220.

DISABILITY NOW – AND THEN



JANUARY – News: DDA disappoints. Disability Scotland “brought back from the dead”. Winter fuel payment campaign must go on. Dutch act on euthanasia. **Features:** How to sue under the Disability Discrimination Act. Adventure holidays. Airline access survey. Just the job – personal assistants. Living – makeovers for the holiday season.



FEBRUARY – News: 20 per cent of would-be participants banned from the New Deal for Disabled People. Tube access plan criticised. DRC demands British Sign Language (BSL) be recognised as an official language. Disability and poverty linked. Sheltered employment shake-up. **Features:** Profile of actor/musician Mat Fraser. Parking problems continue. Taking carers on holiday. How to manage your money.



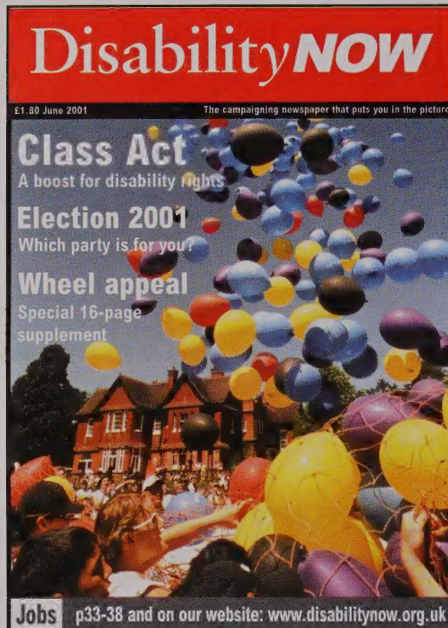
MARCH – News: BBC scraps current affairs programmes on disability. Possession of cannabis for medicinal use still frowned upon by government. Home Office finds a loophole in the DDA. Dyslexia research gives hope. **Features:** Disability equipment – a rip off? Poor service at the petrol pumps. Cycling special. Caravan holidays. Holiday insurance – do disabled people get a fair deal?



APRIL – News: White paper on learning disabilities praised. Spinal Injuries Association makes severe cutbacks. Education advisor says special schools still needed. Disability benefits cut. Disabled woman without hot water since Christmas. Teething trouble for DRC? **Features:** Imminent law change in the Netherlands around euthanasia. Ideal Home Show review. Job hunting tips and work clothes advice. Holiday tips and a trip to Martinique.



MAY – News: TV companies fail to employ disabled people. Parking bay abuse in supermarkets. Mental health service users' views ignored in newspaper articles. Cannabis research adds weight to call for legalisation for medical use. Dutch euthanasia bill passed. **Features:** Charities in cash crisis. Access at the British Museum. Gardening. How to stay safe. Sex and disability. Disability and body image.



JUNE – News: General Election coverage. Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (SENDA) welcomed. Plan to improve access to churches. Staff failures exclude disabled children from mainstream education. Nerve growing progress. Children with rare disorders. **Features:** Motoring supplement. Continence. Marathon coverage. Profile – RADAR director Kate Nash.



JULY – News: Carers under pressure. Incapacity benefit interview worries. Parking campaign scores first win. Accessible theatre project denied funding. Man uses bucket as a toilet for six years due to council blunders. Will Labour listen? Join the Baywatch campaign. **Features:** Charity employment survey. Chelsea flower show. Out and about. How to find information. Naidex review.



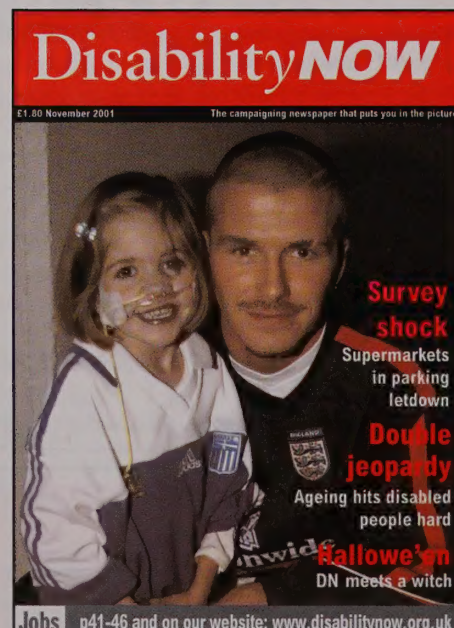
AUGUST – News: Fury over incapacity benefit reform plans. Polling stations break the law. Motability criticised as “inflexible”. Prescription costs are a health risk. Councils flouting the law. **Features:** Profile – Minister for disabled people, Maria Eagle. Barn Free, converting a barn into a home. Holiday romances.



SEPTEMBER – News: Care for people with dementia needs urgent attention. Motoring merger hits a skid patch. Health service fails blind and partially sighted people. Cell transplant tests for people with MS begin in America. Not so NICE? Government institute slammed. Talking toilet to diagnose illness. **Features:** DN survey – Disability and employment. Just the job – journalism. Scuba diving. Back to school.



OCTOBER – News: People with learning disabilities targeted by sex offenders. VAT lifted on incontinence products. Supermarkets committed to tackling parking abuse. Man skydives to raise money for his own communication aid. Changes in Motability scheme spell trouble. **Features:** How to get the best deal from Motability. Electric assist bikes. Pet therapy. Communication aid round-up.



NOVEMBER – News: Parking abuse truth. Airline lets down Tanni Grey-Thompson. 130,000 deaf people missing out on Disability Living Allowance. Council-run work schemes fail disabled people. Black cab access delay. Party conference coverage. **Features:** Cochlear implants. Ageing and disability. Just the job – administration. How to become a member of a public body. Cochlear implants.

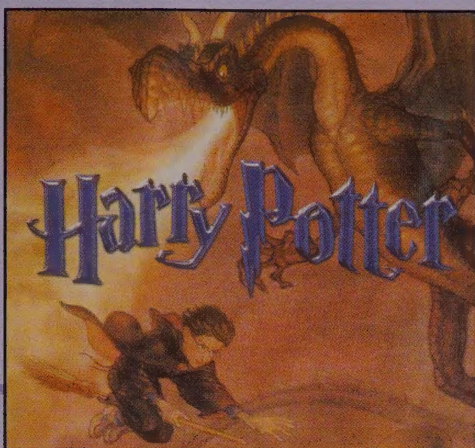
NEED SOME HELP?
Have you read an important story or piece of information in *DN* this year, but misplaced it? If so, visit the Disability Now website at www.disabilitynow.org.uk and look through our archive, which holds news and features dating back to January 1997. Alternatively, if you know what article you need, send your request, along with a self-addressed envelope with 1st class stamp, to Dan Batten at the address on page 2.

Hot Potter property

So you've read the book and seen the film, but do you own a 7 CD special bound collector's edition of *Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone*? (£49.99) As there are only 2,000 copies available, probably not. Have no fear, for here is a fabulous opportunity for one DN reader to win this beautifully presented, audio version of J K Rowling's modern classic. Published by BBC Cover To Cover, this complete and unabridged version is told in all its colourful detail by the "Potter-perfect narrator" Stephen Fry. Three additional entrants will win a copy of the cassette audio book (worth £21.99).

See entry details.

To order copies of CD's or cassettes of all four books in the series, telephone 01672 562255 or visit covertocover.co.uk



BBC
COVER TO COVER

Harry Potter
and the Philosopher's Stone

by J.K. Rowling
read by Stephen Fry



Box of delights

Eat, drink and be merry! To help you celebrate Christmas in style this year, we've teamed up with Waitrose to offer two readers the chance to win one of their luxurious Celebration Hampers worth £150. Packed with a mouth-watering selection of seasonal delicacies, from rich brandy cake to champagne, this splendid hamper offers the ultimate in Christmas indulgence. See entry details.

Don't worry if you're not a winner this time. Waitrose Direct is the online service that makes shopping for Christmas gifts a breeze. Choose from a variety of delectable hampers and speciality champagnes, as well as a more traditional range of grocery goods. Visit www.waitrose.com/christmasdirect pay securely online and have your gift delivered direct to the door. Alternatively, call freephone 0800 188881 and quote WR04. Last orders for guaranteed Christmas deliveries must be placed by noon on the 17 December.

WAITROSE
food shops of the John Lewis Partnership

A guide to the great indoors

Britain's biggest publisher of travel guides for independent-minded travellers has published a new book which is more likely to stay at home on the sofa – *The Rough Guide to Videogaming*. Until now, there has been no helpful handbook to this increasingly popular scene, so if gaming makes you tick, you might like to have a go at winning one of 30 copies (worth £6) on offer this month. The *Rough Guide* offers unbiased reviews of the main platforms – PlayStation, Mac, PC, Dreamcast and Nintendo 64. It comes packed with punchy reviews of the top games in every genre,

from shoot-em-ups to flight simulators and role-playing, with a wealth of tips to crack each one. So, get ahead of the game in time for Christmas and complete the coupon provided to enter our give-away, or visit www.roughguides.com for more information.



Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1. Father Christmas
8. Away In A Manger 9. Kiss
10. Ram 12. Comet
15. Christmas Carol
19. Oxen 20. Pantomime
24. Ale 26. Hen 27. Edible
28. Silent 31. Igloo
32. Nativity 33. Magi

DOWN: 1. Frankincense
2. Transport 3. Runner
4. Hamper 5. Sugar
6. Mary 7. Stephen 11. Ass
12. Carve 13. Israel
14. Smith 16. Chill 17. Log
18. Fete 21. Maids 22. Meeting
23. Night 25. Stall
26. Herod 29. Alto 30. Eve

to enter Tick your chosen competition circle(s) below, add your details, and send FOR FREE to *Disability Now*, Freepost WD4323, London N7 9BR, or you can fax it on 020 7619 7331, or e-mail the details to: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk

☐ Harry Potter ☐ Waitrose Hamper
☐ Rough Guides



terms & conditions

• Closing date for offers: 17.12.2001 • Entrants must be over 18 • No proof of purchase required • UK entrants only • No cash alternatives • Winners notified by post • Editor's decision is final • Special offers not open to DN staff or associates • Winners may be announced in DN • This is a joint partnership with BBC Worldwide, Waitrose and Rough Guides and we may use your name and address for further marketing purposes. Please tick the box if you do not wish your details to be included ☐

DN next month



All the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 14 December.

- ☐ **HOLIDAYS (1)**
DN helps you plan and land your perfect break
- ☐ **NEWS FOCUS**
What will SENDA render? How the Special Education Needs and Disability Act will affect you
- ☐ **PROFILE**
Jamil Dhillon, 13 – first wheelchair user in a BBC sitcom
- ☐ **NEW YEAR, NEW YOU**
Eat your way to a healthier lifestyle

NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM

(Please complete and take to your newsagent)

Please reserve me a regular copy of *Disability Now* until further notice ☐

Please deliver a copy of *Disability Now* to my home address ☐

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:

.....

Signature:

.....

To the newsagent: *Disability Now*, ISSN 0958-4676, is published monthly by Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

It is distributed by MMC Ltd, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR.

Tel: +44 (0)1483 211222, fax: +44 (0)1483 224541.

DisabilityNow

£1.80 December 2001

The campaigning newspaper that puts you in the picture

BBC blasted

Journalists slam
equal opportunities

Mental health treatment

Will ministers
back down?

Christmas fun

Goodies, games and grub



Jobs p34-37 and on our website: www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Mercedes from £16,495



VW from £13,545



Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Converters Association

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles

✓ The widest choice of quality marques	✓ Flexible ownership schemes
✓ Luxury interiors as standard	✓ Prices from just £12,500
✓ The highest levels of customer service	✓ MOTABILITY help & advice
✓ Independently safety tested	✓ Lifetime customer service - while you own the vehicle
✓ Superb conversions by fully trained experts	✓ Never more than a phone call away
✓ "No obligation" test drives from your front door	✓ Quality used conversions always in stock

At Lewis Reed, we don't simply build quality wheelchair accessible vehicles, we tailor them to your most specific needs. With easy access features. Superb visibility. Superior comfort. And exceptional levels of safety.

Through our flexible deposit plan and ownership schemes, we can also make it easier for you to choose the vehicle that best suits you. Whilst our friendly after-sales service is never more than a phone call away.

So if you're looking for a vehicle built around real customer service, send for a brochure today. And discover for yourself how nothing less than a Lewis Reed Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle will do.

*"I wanted a conversion
by a firm who really
understand disabled needs...
...nothing else would do"*



*This is a trademark of motability registered charity no.299745



Call for your free brochure today on:
0845 345 0127
LOCAL CALL RATE

LEWIS REED

because nothing else will do